

Merry Christmas



CRAWFORD COUNTY AVALANCHE

Published
Early
Each Week

Warmer weather brings problems, too

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow.....please!!!

by Cheryl A. Ruley
Special Writer

Has Mother Nature taken leave of her senses? Has Jack Frost moved south? It appears to be the case here in northern Michigan.

The lack of any measurable snowfall has created economic hardship for some, and mixed blessings for others.

Area restaurants are feeling the pinch. Steven's Family Circle in Grayling is experiencing a drop in business between 30-40 percent

over this time last year. But, they keep on smiling.

Brad Murray, owner of the Grayling Big Boy, says, "We're down. It's definitely had an impact." Murray says that some of his regular customers, who are also area business owners, come into the restaurant and share their "horror stories" over coffee.

Spike's Keg O' Nails sees business as "a little lacking." Nancy Carlisle said, "Business is picking up with people visiting for

Christmas."

Spike's really misses the skiers and snowmobilers who normally stop in. Carlisle said that the real test will come the week between Christmas and New Years. She said she's pretty confident that the college students will stop by while home for the holidays, but Carlisle is "personally praying for snow."

Jim Drudge, at Showtime Collision, said that bodywork usually slows down this time of year. "A lot of cars are totaled when involved in winter weather accidents," explained Drudge. He said he has seen about the same amount of deer collision jobs as in the past.

Drudge has not had to use heavy equipment to move snow off his lot and that's just fine with him. He is concerned though, for those party store owners and snowmobile businesses that really depend on snowfall.

The State Farm Insurance office is experiencing mixed blessing from the mild weather. Claims are down for car accidents and house fires. Towing bills are down. But the staff has noticed that the economy in town is such that some customers are having difficulty paying their premiums.

Don Latusek of Grayling Power Equipment, the local Toro dealer, is happy to say that, back in August and September, they decided to order fewer snowblowers and other snow removal equipment. The Latuseks based their decision on past trends.

"We had two hard winters in a row, so we anticipated a milder winter this year," Latusek explained.

Latusek said that some of their customers are still using leaf blowers and chain saws. That has kept business pretty steady.

Things are not all down hill at Hanson Hills, either. Director Cindy Olson said that the winter activities don't traditionally get underway until Dec. 26 each year.

See 'Lack of snow...' pg. A-7

Christmas and Christmas Eve Church Services

<p>Michelson Memorial United Methodist Church at AuSable Primary School Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5:30 and 7:30 pm</p> <p>St. Mary's Catholic Church Christmas Eve Service 7 pm Christmas Day Service 8 & 10:30 am New Year's Eve Service 5 pm New Year's Day Service 9 am</p> <p>Calvary Baptist Church Christmas Eve Service 7 pm</p> <p>St. Francis Episcopal Church Christmas Eve Candlelight Eucharist 9 pm</p> <p>Mt. Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church Christmas Eve Service 7 pm Christmas Day Service 10:30 am New Year's Eve Service 7 pm</p>	<p>Grayling Assembly of God Church Christmas Eve Service 7 pm</p> <p>St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA) Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion 7 pm</p> <p>Grayling Baptist Church Affiliated with S.B.C. at Hanson Hills Christmas Eve Service 7 pm</p> <p>Abundant Life Tabernacle Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion 6 pm</p>
---	---



Merry Christmas at The Meadows

RESIDENT SANTA -- This Santa Claus, in the person of Richard Fairchild, is one resident of The Meadows of Grayling who enjoyed this year's Christmas Party. Fairchild insisted he was going to wait until Christmas Eve to open his gift, presented by a visiting Santa. For the complete story and more pictures on Christmas at The Meadows, sponsored by the North Central Area Credit Union, please turn to Page 3. Photo by Cheryl Ruley.



NATIVITY SCENE -- The traditional Nativity Scene, displayed on the lawn of the Grayling City Hall, is a popular attraction for both visitors and Grayling residents alike. The creche has been displayed for many years at City Hall. Photo by Linda Golnick.

Kiwanis donate picture books

Kiwanis of Grayling donated picture books to the Grayling Health Center to encourage birth through 18 month old immunization.

These books can be earned by 18 month old children receiving their immunizations at the District Health Department.

There are nine contagious diseases that vaccines can prevent. Without immunizations, three in 10 infants and toddlers are at risk for these life-threatening or disabling illnesses. Michigan's immunization levels are the lowest in the country. Low immunization levels in our state put our community at risk for disease.

Headlines Inside

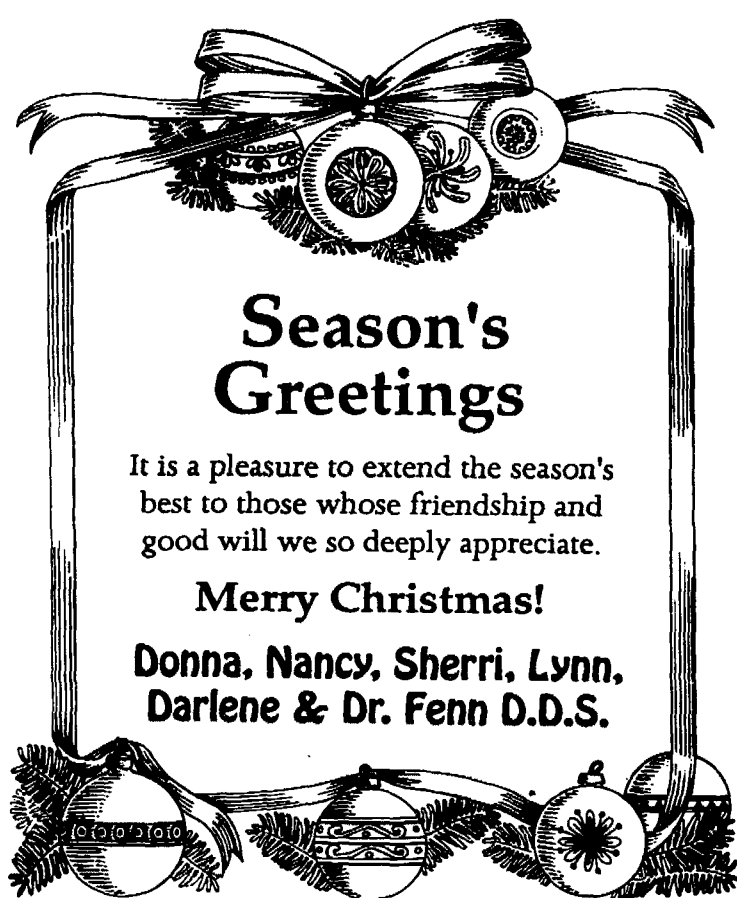
Santa visits residents at Meadows of Grayling.....3A
100-yr old Frederic Inn remodeled and updated .10A
Early morning paper carriers call it quits14A
Varsity boys' basketball looking good3B
School Choirs attract full house.....10B

Crawford County AVALANCHE

Crawford County's Newspaper for 119 Years • VOL 119-NO 52, 28 PAGES-2 SECTIONS
 PO Box 490, Grayling, MI 49738 (517) 348-6811 www.townnews.com/avalanche/

Business Directory9-11 A **Legal Notices8B**
Church Directory6A **Opinions4A**
Classifieds1-4C **Sports2-8B**
Facts & Features6C **Obits.....7A**

Merry Christmas



Season's Greetings

It is a pleasure to extend the season's best to those whose friendship and good will we so deeply appreciate.

Merry Christmas!

Donna, Nancy, Sherri, Lynn, Darlene & Dr. Fenn D.D.S.



IN STEP WITH THE SEASON

It's been a pleasure watching our students learn and grow every step of the way, and we'd like to extend our gratitude to all of you for your kind support. Thanks for helping to keep us "on our toes" this year.

Louise Tournaud School of Dance
Instructor:
Louise Tournaud



All of God's Creation Rejoice!

All of us here wish you a joyous holiday season!

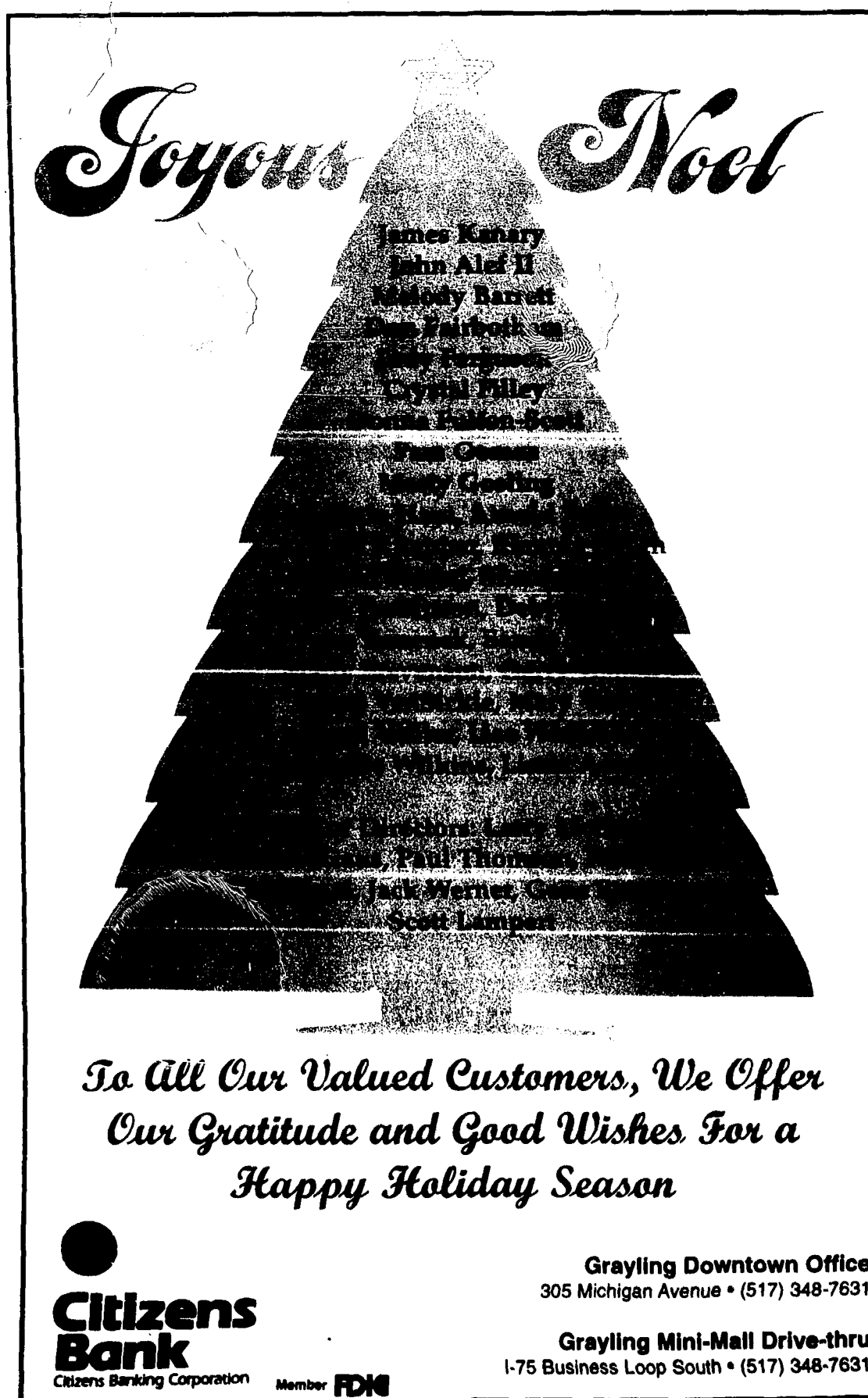
Grayling Hospital For Animals
714 Isenhauer Rd.
348-8622



Silent Night, Holy Night, All Is Calm... All Is Bright.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

From the Sawmill



Joyous Noel

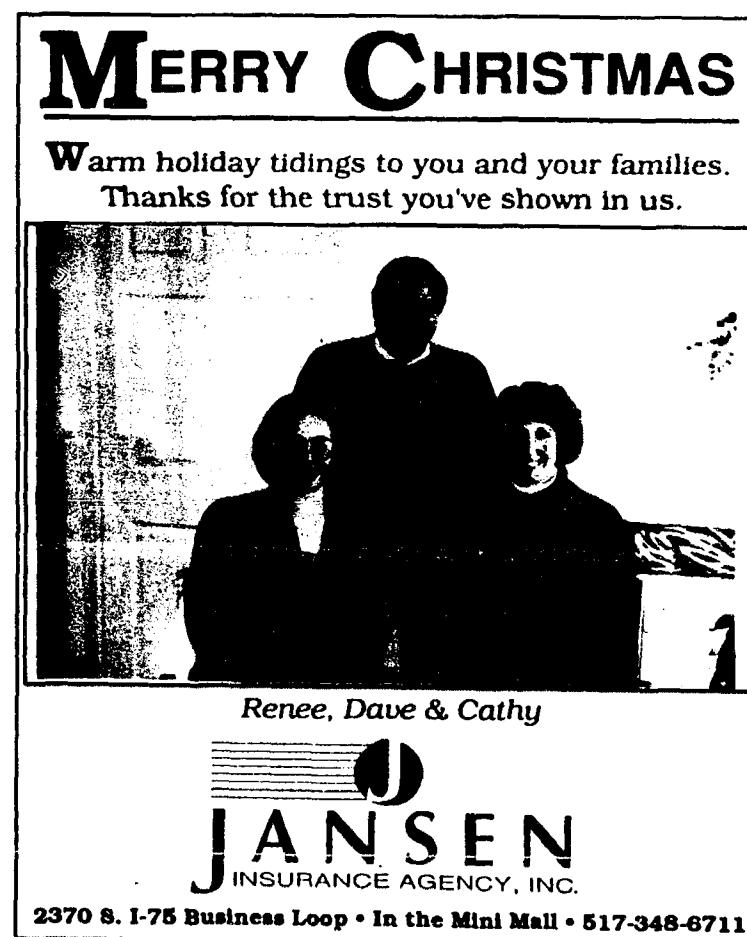
James Kahary
John Alef II
Johnny Barrett
Don Fairbairn
Paul Ferguson
Crystal Willey
Donna Helen Ford
Paul Gorman
Marty Gertling
Mike Acker
John K. Smith
William J. Smith
Paul Thompson
Jack Werner
Scott Lampert

To All Our Valued Customers, We Offer Our Gratitude and Good Wishes For a Happy Holiday Season

Citizens Bank
Citizens Banking Corporation Member FDIC

Grayling Downtown Office
305 Michigan Avenue • (517) 348-7631

Grayling Mini-Mall Drive-thru
I-75 Business Loop South • (517) 348-7631



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Warm holiday tidings to you and your families. Thanks for the trust you've shown in us.

Renee, Dave & Cathy

JANSEN
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

2370 S. I-75 Business Loop • In the Mini Mall • 517-348-6711



We Wish You All The Best Of The Season!

Thanks for your loyal patronage. We look forward to being of continued service to you.

Tees N Such R Us

Santa visits residents at Meadows of Grayling

by Cheryl A. Ruley
Special Writer

Who says Christmas is just for kids? The Christmas party at the Meadows of Grayling, last Friday, proved otherwise. More than 60 residents, their families, friends and the home's staff celebrated Christmas in fine fashion.

The party was sponsored by the North Central Area Credit Union (NCACU). The credit union takes on a charitable cause each year. This year, according to Branch Manager Joyce Miller, the choice was easy. About 50 percent of the residents at the facility have no family or friends who visit on a regular basis, if at all.

A Christmas tree displaying white paper ornaments was set up to invite NCACU employees, members and the community to take an ornament and adopt the person whose name appeared on it. Along with their names, residents' clothing sizes and gift wishes were stated to help the giver buy the perfect gift.

"As usual, the people of Grayling have been very supportive," said Miller. "We really appreciate the tremendous response."

The party began with carols and a visit from Santa Claus. He made sure to greet every resident with a jolly, "Ho, Ho, Ho! Merry Christmas!"

NCACU employees and Meadows staff members sorted through the mountain of beautifully wrapped gifts and passed them out



LOTS OF HELP -- Volunteers helped Santa Claus distribute gifts to the many residents of The Meadows of Grayling at this year's annual Christmas party. Photos on this page by Linda Golnick.

to the residents. Family members and staff assisted the residents, when needed, to open their presents.

Lucille McNabb opened a gift of a white sweat suit and some fluffy white socks.

Resident Santa, Richard Fairchild, said, "I don't care what everyone else is doing, I'm not opening mine 'til Christmas Eve!"

Other gifts included flannel shirts,

stuffed animals and personal items.

Christmas holds some special meaning for most people. John Gauthier, 79, said, "Christmas is very special in my family. I was captured in Korea on Christmas day. My brother was born on Christmas day and, seven years later, my sister was born on Christmas, too."

A buffet table, filled with hors d'oeuvres and taste-tempting desserts, was provided by donations from many people, including Marathon Oil, CSI, family and staff.

Everyone enjoyed the "Big Band" sounds of Benny Goodman and the like, taped especially for the occasion by Betty Neff.

Lori Bloink, administrator, said, "I'm thrilled by today's turn out. This is the best Christmas party I've ever seen in a facility of this kind."

Bloink would like to see the enthusiasm continue into the new year, with more people getting involved with The Meadows' "Adopt-a-Grandparent" program.

Georgeanna Stevens, activities director for the past year, was excited to see everyone come out to brighten the holidays for the residents. She explained that many good things are happening at The Meadows.

There is an over-sized fish tank in the lobby for the enjoyment of everyone. Resident Dorothy Goudie is appointed the daily task of feeding the fish and Stevens helps her keep the tank clean.

There are visiting dog pals, too. Sassy, a Chow puppy belonging to

staff member Karen Lupo, attended the party and visits a few times each week. Betty Mahaffy, director of nursing, brings her friendly black Labrador retriever, Susie, to the facility on a regular basis. A feline called, "Cat", resides at The Meadows.

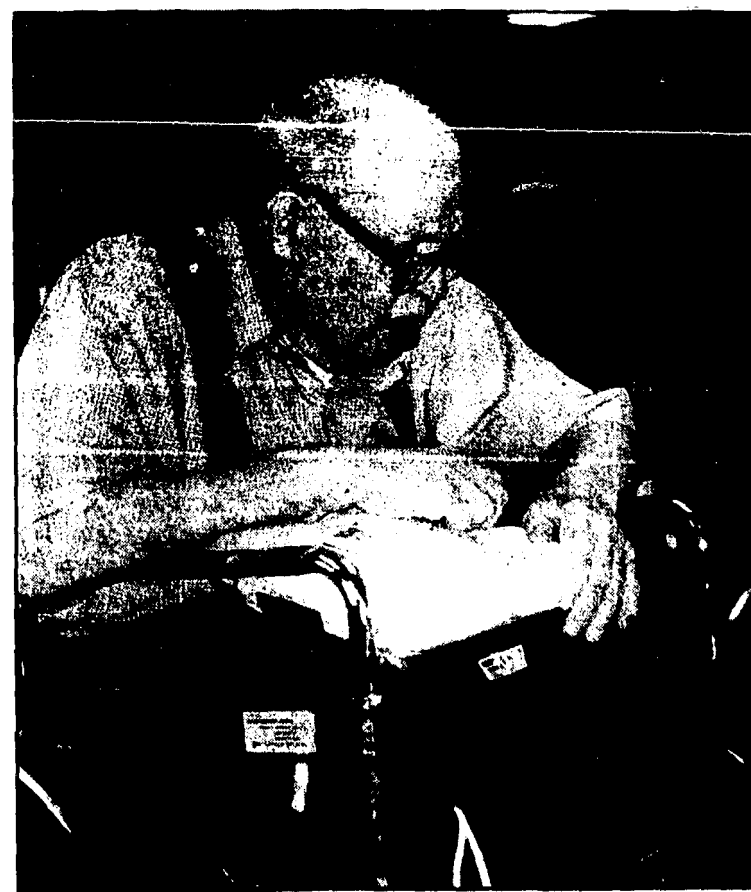
The pets seem to help the residents through rough times and give them some much needed companionship.

Earlier on Friday, students from Grayling High School came to entertain the folks with Christmas carols in Spanish.

Mahaffy was happy to see so many residents smiling and enjoying the festivities. She said, "We are so happy with the community's involvement and that North Central Area Credit Union chose to help our facility this year."



THANKS, SANTA -- Arvilla Mastropietro, a resident at The Meadows, received a couple of packages from Santa. Helping is her daughter, Gertrude Quest.



MEMORABLE DAY -- Christmas is a special day for John Gauthier, 79, a resident at The Meadows. He explained he was captured in Korea during military service on Christmas day, and his brother and sister both were born on Christmas Day.

Skips Sport Shop
Sportmen's Headquarters of the North

Fishing & Hunting
Weekly Update

Merry Christmas!

M-72 • 1/4 Mile West of Grayling, MI

After Christmas Sale
26th - 31st

- Save -
35% Storewide
40% Christmas
35% Clothing

Parrot's Perch
BOUTIQUE

Parrot's Perch is the place to shop in Grayling
Mon. - Sat. 10 am - 6 pm • Sun. 10 am - 4 pm
207 Mich. Ave., Uptown Grayling • 348-2743

TOP Video movies
WHAT'S NEW ... WHO'S HOT

Walt Disney's
AIR BUD
Special effects movie of the year
SPAWN
Jodie Foster, Matthew McConaughey
CONTACT
A magical family adventure
A SIMPLE WISH
Nicolas Cage, John Cusack
CON AIR
Julia Roberts
MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING
The Mysterious Island
LAND BEFORE TIME 5
Some things don't go exactly as planned
THE HEIST
Brandon Fraser
GEORGE OF THE JUNGLE
Sandra Bullock, Jason Patric
SPEED 2: CRUISE CONTROL
Tommy Lee Jones, Will Smith
MEN IN BLACK
Explosive new comedy
CHASING AMY
All new animated musical feature film
PIPPI LONGSTOCKING
The Rescue
FREE WILLY 3

Horizon Video
Thousands of movie choices

ACME • BELLAIRE • BOYNE CITY • CHARLEVOIX • HONOR
EAST JORDAN • TRAVERSE CITY • GAYLORD • PETOSKEY
KALKASKA • GRAYLING • ELK RAPIDS • WEST BRANCH

New Year GALA

You're Invited To...
Come Join the Fun at The Holiday Inn of Grayling Annual New Year's Eve Party!
9 pm - 2 am

• Live Music by Sweet Talk
• Lite Bites • Cash Bar

Tickets for this gala event are \$15 per person.
For information, contact the sales office at 517-348-7611 or 1-800-292-9055

Holiday Inn
2650 S. I-75 Bus. Loop • Grayling • 348-7611

OPINIONS

ALMANACK

by Richard Milliman

One solitary life...

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following thoughts were first gathered into a Christmas column and offered in The Almanack about 25 years ago; over the years, they have appeared several times during the Christmas season — and are still appropriate.)

"HERE IS A young man, who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another small village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was 30, and then for three years He was an itinerant preacher.

"He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never owned a home. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put His foot inside a big city. He never traveled 200 miles from the place He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness: He had no credentials but Himself.

"While He was still a young man, the tide of public opinion turned against Him. His friends ran away. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross

between two thieves. While He was dying, His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth, and that was His coat.

"When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

"Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today He is the central figure of the human race, and the leader of the column of progress.

"I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched ... and all the navies that ever sailed ... and all the parliaments that ever sat ... and all the kings that ever reigned, put together ... have not affected the life of man upon this earth, as has

"That one solitary life."

OF COURSE, I didn't originate that article; I only repeat it from the original and unknown (to me) author.

But it seems to me that in a relatively few lines, the story of "One Solitary Life" helps us add perspective to our activities, especially as

we enjoy the Christmas season each year.

What we seek is happiness, each in his or her own form, and happiness comes in many guises.

As long as I'm quoting, let me endorse the formula for happiness set down many years ago by Ralph Waldo Emerson:

"A happy life is to laugh often and to love much ... to win the respect of intelligent persons and the affection of children ... to earn the approbation of honest critics and to endure the betrayal of friends ... to appreciate beauty ... to give one's self ... to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition ... to have played and laughed with enthusiasm, and to have sung with exaltation ... to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived

YES, WE NEED a credo, a purpose, a plan to our living, and to our life. We need principles, truth, faith. We need prayer.

One of the most beautiful and

touching prayers ever composed is the familiar Prayer of St. Francis:

"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace ... where there is hatred, let me sow love ... where there is injury, pardon ... where there is despair, hope ... where there is darkness, light ... and where there is sadness, joy.

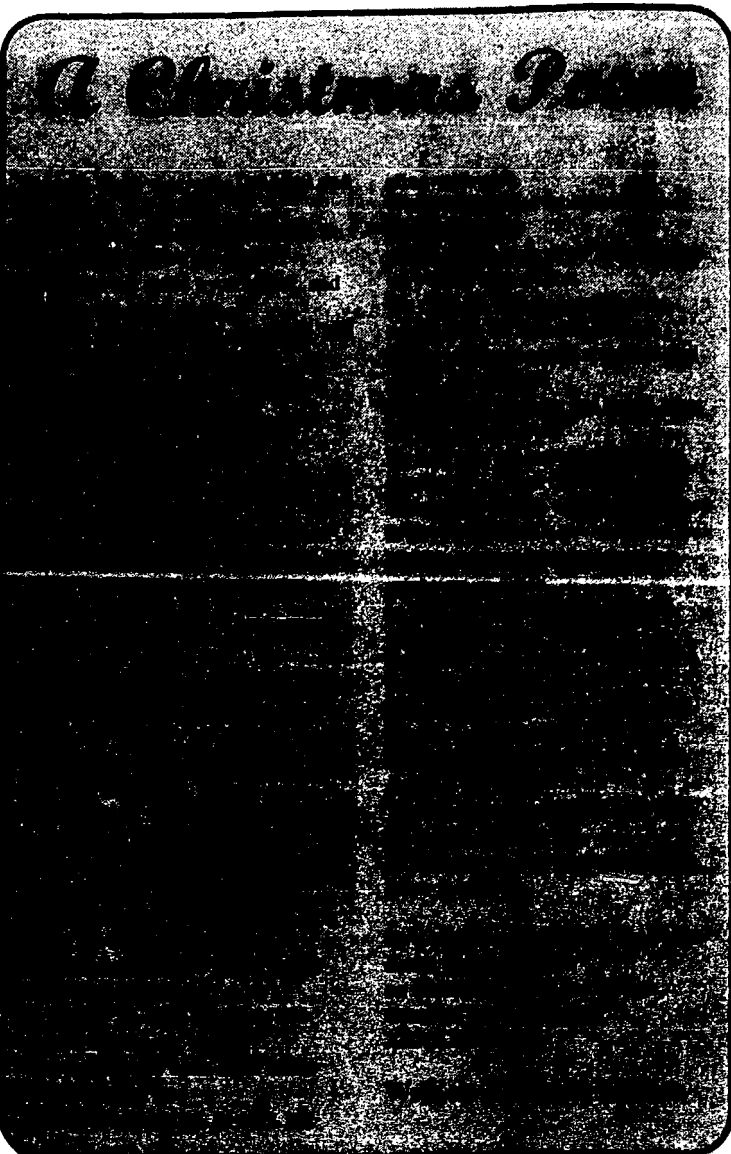
"Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console to be understood as to understand ... to be loved as to love

"For it is in giving that we receive ... it is in pardoning that we are pardoned ... and in dying that we are born to eternal life."

Truly, words to live by.

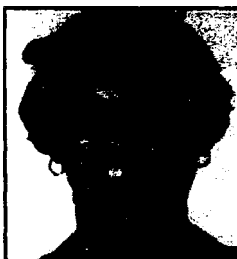
TO ALL OF YOU, a blessed and joyous holiday season from The Almanack.

Richard Milliman is a veteran newspaperman and a contributing columnist to several Michigan newspapers.



GUEST COLUMN

by Barb Brooks



A true Christmas story

Of all the Christmases that I recall as a child, there is only one which stands out faintly in my mind. It really wasn't so different from our other Christmases. Early preparations started as they always did when the walnut and filbert trees in the yard shed their prized nuggets. With baskets in hand, we would hustle to pick them from the ground before the squirrels hoarded them for the winter. Mom would eventually chop and fold them into her delicious fruit cake and cookie batters. We girls would then do our housecleaning chores for the holidays while Dad worked and Mom went shopping.

Something, however, was different on this Christmas. I started hearing noises in the basement in the late night hours, but I don't recall inquiring as to who or what it was. Despite my childish wonderment, a voice told me not to go down and investigate. All I knew was that something was different.

Soon it was Christmas Eve and I lay snuggled in my bed, waiting for that special moment. Suddenly I heard the faint jingle of bells in the stillness of the night and I knew Santa was very near. Yes! The magic of Christmas was here, as it was every year. The following morning we children stood at the

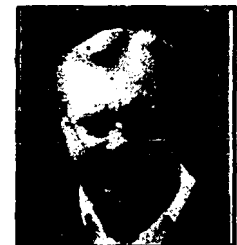
top of the stairway with great excitement, waiting impatiently for Mom and Dad to join us. Finally, we descended to the living room, plugged in the colored lights and squeaked with joy at the sight of bountiful presents under the tree. We opened our gifts, one by one. It was a wonderful Christmas, like every other Christmas.

It wasn't until recent years that I learned what made this Christmas so different. I was told that it was Mom and Dad whom I heard in the basement in the late night hours. Dad had been laid off from his full time job that year and he and Mom were refurbishing some used toys. Now I know why that particular Christmas was different and indeed so special. I not only heard the jingle of Santa's bells but the voices of two Christmas angels, working diligently into the night so that their five children could experience the MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS once again.

The child in me continues to hear the jingle of the bells and the voices in the night, if only to remind me of how blessed we were to have two fine parents who could show their love for us in such a special way through the wonderful gift of giving.

FROM OUR CORNER

by Whitey Madsen



Clinton, Hussein, Sprewell, etc.

A little bit of this... and a little bit of that... of one man's opinion on the happenings in the news.

The United States' number one con artist slipped through the noose once again before the rope could be tightened... this time with the help of his appointed Top Cop in the Justice Department.

You have to hand it to him... he has it down pat when to turn his memory call on and when to feign amnesia.

The Prez just can't remember using his office phone on numerous occasions to solicit campaign funds... and he is the leader of the free world?

Now, had he called his aunt Sarah in Big Rock, Arkansas at 3:30 Friday, July 4th to wish her a happy birthday, I could see where he could have a memory lapse...

On the decision of Attorney General Janet Reno not to appoint an independent prosecutor to investigate a conspiracy to subvert the federal election laws... this was over the recommendation of FBI director Louis Freeh to do so.

It was interesting to read her remark about her decision... she said she was not going to be pressured by congress or the media... she didn't mention the President.

U.S. Senator Arlen Specter (R-Penn.), said it right: "The Department of Justice cannot survive half slave and half Freeh."

Something I can not understand... how President Saddam Hussein of vanquished Iraq can dictate who and how the United Nations (UN) can inspect places of possible hiding of weapons of mass destruction?

Hussein is sly as a fox... he orders

American personnel on the inspection team out of the country, knowing the rest would also follow.

This gave him time to change hiding places for the weapons... and now he says several castles are off limits for inspection.

Who won the war with Iraq?

And now our great leader the other day warned Iraq that any further obstruction on the inspections he would explore options beyond economic sanctions. "I wouldn't rule out anything," Clinton declared.

Bravo... close the barn door after the horse is gone. said he would announce before he left for Bosnia last weekend whether to extend the US military mission there beyond its June deadline.

I have a suggestion for him... seeing as how he is going to be in Bosnia just prior to Christmas, why does he not stay and celebrate Christmas with the troops... that way he will have first hand how it feels not to be home for the holiday...

Then make his decision on how long to keep the troops there. The UN or the US will never be able to make peace among the ethnic groups there.

TEMPER LOSES \$32 MILLION

Sound ridiculous... it happened. Golden State Warriors all-star NBA player, Latrel Sprewell lost his cool when supposedly coach PJ Carlesimo verbally abused him during practice.

The outraged player attacked the coach by choking him and then went to the dressing room only to return about 15 minutes later and allegedly

threatened to kill him.

For his actions, the team tears up his contract, and the league suspends him for a year.

Enter, Charles Barkley, forward for the Houston Rockets, advocating a player boycott in support of Sprewell. Attorney Johnnie Cochran, who defended O.J. Simpson in his murder trial, called the punishment excessive. Some backers insinuated the real issue was race. Sprewell is black and Carlesimo is white.

If Cochran and Barkley jump on this band wagon, may I suggest they take a long look in the mirror before making any accusations.

What other have said...

SHE EXPECTED FAN MAIL?

"Miss Reno managed to prove that when it comes to the law and her own word, she is equally indifferent to both."

A Washington Times editorial...

BOMBS AWAY: Former Air Force bomber pilot Kelly Flinn, who was bounced out of the service for adultery with the husband of an enlisted woman, lying and disobeying orders, says she's mulling a run for Congress. She'd fit right in.

ESPY'S REAL CRIME: Jay Leno, on ex-Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy's ethics woes: "You

Early Deadlines!
Avalanche
publishing early for
New Year holiday!!

Avalanche will publish on Tuesday, Dec. 30 so newsstand buyers and our local subscribers will receive the issue before the New Year holiday.

The deadline for full page, half page, or color display ads, for the Dec. 31 issue, must be turned in by noon, Tuesday, Dec. 23. The deadline for all display ads smaller than a half page is noon Wednesday, Dec. 24, to be considered for the next issue. Community news items and classified display ads must be turned in by noon Friday, Dec. 26. Classified ads by the word must be turned in by noon, Monday, Dec. 22.

The Avalanche will be closed Thursday, Dec. 25, in observance of the Christmas holiday, and reopen at 9 am Friday, Dec. 26.

AVALANCHE

Ruth Doyle Business Office	Howard D. Madsen Associate Publisher	Debbie St. Germain Advertising Sales
Marilyn Ginther Business Office	Linda Golnick General Manager	Betty Pearl Advertising Sales
Dana Anderson Composition	Brian Watkins Retail Circulation	Nicole Trenary Typesetter
Connie Beard Composition		Dawn Workman Proofreader

Published by Crawford County Avalanche, Inc., Ann Marie Milliman, president.
Member of the Michigan Press Association and the National Newspaper Association.

USPS 136-860. Entered as Periodicals at the Post Office at Grayling, MI 49738 under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1919. Published each Tuesday at 102 W. Michigan Avenue, Grayling, MI 49738. For changing address, send US Post Office Form 3579 to the Crawford County Avalanche, P.O. Box 490, Grayling, MI 49738.

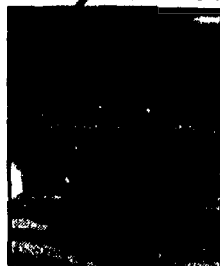
Subscription Rates: One year permanent subscription in Crawford, Roscommon, Kalamazoo, Ogemaw, and Oscoda counties, \$16.00; Seasonal address changes add \$4.00; One year non-local, outside above counties, \$24.00; Foreign Countries, \$52.00; Senior Citizen discount (60 or older) \$1.00 off any of the above rates. Subscriptions rates are non-refundable. Check us out on the Internet at www.townnews.com/avalanche/

Betty asks...

Question of the week:
What are you doing New Year's eve?



Ron Rutter
Grayling, MI
"Going away skiing, can't ski here because we haven't any snow, most likely go north."



Bill Rutter
Grayling, MI
"Staying home - too many crazies out that night."



Dr. Suzanne Toupin
Lewiston, MI
"Celebrating the New Year with friends."



April Contreras
Grayling, MI
"Going out with friends."

There you have it...I can't even stay awake until 12:00 a.m.

Betty Pearl
Advertising Representative
Crawford County Avalanche

This week's question was asked Friday in the Grayling area

BRIEFS

Snowmobile safety class

Snowmobile safety class will be held Jan. 6, 7 and 8, 1998 at the Grayling High School from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Twelve to 18 years old, must take this class to operate a snowmobile alone. Bring social security number and date of birth for they are needed. There is no fee and this class is sponsored by AuSable Valley Snowmobile Association. Call (517) 348-8619 to register.

Master Gardeners Society to hold meeting

The Master Gardeners Society will hold its first meeting of the new year on Monday, Jan. 12, 1998, at 7 p.m. at the Lyon Township Hall at Higgins Lake. The topic for the evening will be "House Plants". If you would like to learn how to keep those plants healthy and thriving during the cold, snowy winter months, join the group. For more information call President Barb at (517) 275-5832.

State Rep. Allen Lowe has perfect House vote record

State Rep. Allen Lowe is the only member of the Michigan House who did not miss a vote during 1997.

The Grayling lawmaker maintained a perfect attendance record by attending all House sessions from Jan. 8 through Dec. 10. He also answered all 1,053 roll call votes.

"This is an outstanding record," said House Republican Leader Ken Sikkema, R-Grandville. "Allen is one of the most dedicated legislators I have ever met. He virtually defines the term public servant."

Lowe said serving the residents of northern Michigan is a privilege.

"It is my responsibility to voice the concerns of area constituents during House debate," Lowe said. "The best way to accomplish this is to be present when important policy matters are discussed."

One of the key measures during 1997 was an eight-bill package prohibiting natural gas producers in Michigan from passing their expenses to the state and private landown-

ers. The legislation prevents oil and gas companies from deducting post-production costs from royalty payments to private mineral owners unless specifically agreed to in a lease. Detailed reporting on royalty payments also is required.

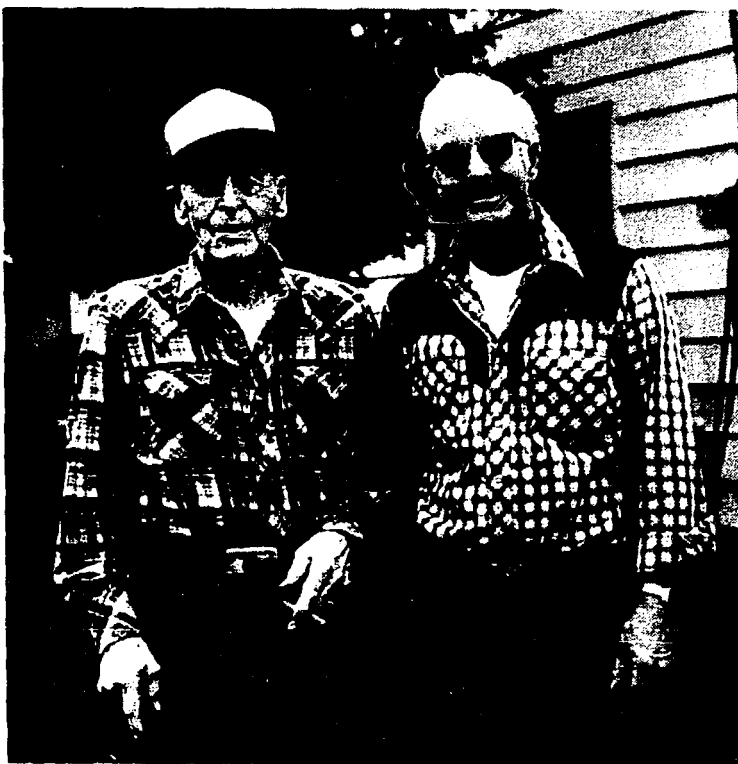
"Michigan residents have allowed companies to mine their property in good faith, and some seem to be getting shafted," said Lowe, who sponsored two bills in the package. "We need something on the books that stops companies from taking advantage of people."

Lowe hopes that lawmakers will be more productive in 1998.

"With the onset of term limits, we need to get our house in order," Lowe said. "There must be an intense effort to build strong families, successful schools and safe communities. I remain committed to improving the quality of life for Michigan residents."



THREE GENERATIONS -- The Grayling Lodge No. 356 of Free & Accepted Masons installed Edwin Papendick as Worshipful Master on Dec. 11. Edwin is pictured above on the right with his father Clarence Papendick. He served as Worshipful Master in 1961 and again in 1996. Pictured below, Clarence Papendick, on the right, is pictured with his father, Eugene Papendick. Eugene served as a Worshipful Master for the Masons in 1958.



BOCA Fire Ordinance passed

by Dawn Workman
Special Writer

The Grayling Township Board of Trustees voted to pass the Building Officials and Code Administrators International, Inc. (BOCA) Fire Prevention Code Ordinance at the Dec. 9 meeting.

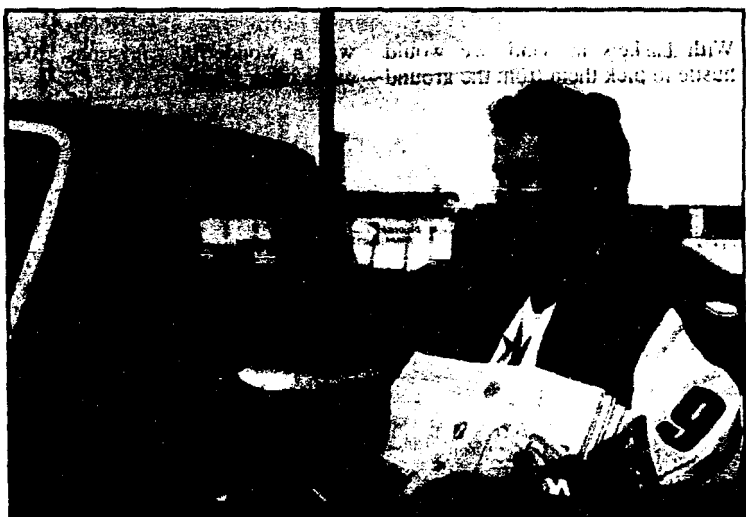
Previously the city or township had no previous code that it followed.

The ordinance gives the Grayling City and Township Fire Department the authority to recommend corrections when a fire hazard is spotted by designated inspectors or the fire chief. This will affect commercial zones only.

The department at this time is not planning to start a formal inspection program. The only time inspections may be done is: upon request of the owner or occupant; new construction; after an incident, where life

safety violations were noted by the incident commander of the fire department; change of ownership or change of occupancy; after the reopening of a vacant building; after a written complaint of a serious life safety violation from a citizen; or upon request from Michigan State Police Fire Marshal, or a recognized building, plumbing, mechanical or safety code official, or the Grayling Fire Chief.

This code was adopted in the interest of public life safety, firefighter safety, and property conservation.



EXTRA! EXTRA! — Members of Grayling Kiwanis Club were on the December streets hawking their annual fun newspaper edition. Money raised is used for various Kiwanis projects throughout the year. Brian McMahon (right) worked the traffic at the corner of Michigan and James St., and received a donation from Mark Millikin (behind the wheel). Photo by Linda Golnick.

Library receives book donations

New Memorials at the Crawford County Library donated by Cornell Real Estate and Insurance are Kitchen redos for Mary Perry, Spiritual healing for Jane Ann Green, Christmas we moved to the barn for Crystal Grabach, Where's Prancer? for Howard Albers, Christmas with Martha Stewart Living for Ursel Pearson, Great quarterback for David Shires, World of the Wolf for William Halliday, and Perfect storm for Raymond Reynolds.

In memory of David Shires, Comanche moon donated by Bill and Gloria Kraus, Mereck Manual of medical information donated by Women's Golf League, Panama Canal donated by Mandy and Marty Murray, Oscar stars from a to z and Basketball stars were donated by Pamela Jozsa and Jeff McClain, and Dictionary of Norse myth and legend donated by Merry L. Meridith.

In memory of William Halliday, Computers and society and Hummingbirds my winter guests donated by Burdette and Bernice Scott, and Barn owl and National Audubon Society field guide to tropical marine fishes donated by Jeff, Shirley, Jessica and Erin Scott.

In memory of Raymond Reynolds, Rain or shine activities and Bullfinch guide to art donated by Paul and Judy Mesack.

In memory of Mary Perry, Rikkittiki-tavi was donated by Pam and Bill Deline and family.

In memory of Albert Kesteloot, War in the sky was donated by Whitey and Thelma Madsen.

In memory of Wesley Hayes, Collecting world coins was donated by Bill and Gloria Kraus; Frontier pistols and revolvers, Sports illustrated sports almanac, Basic book of photography and Shipwrecks were donated by Mary Dent and Nancy Mowery; Last days of the Titanic and Illustrated history of boxing were donated by Greg and Jackie Cass;

World War II Life Books was donated by Fran, Bob and Rob Hanson; Home design workbooks-kitchens was donated by Rose Duley-Gleason; Legends of the NBA, Geography of the world, Fly-fishing life, Who were the founding fathers and Ancient Ireland were donated by Oliver and Kathleen Nethers, David and Valerie Nethers and Patricia Gueks.

In memory of Barbara Jo Hinkle, Celestine vision and Decorating kid's rooms were donated by Darlene Jarvis and Kay Hunter.

In memory of Harold Lee, Decorative painting source book was donated by AuSagra Manor Apartments.



Wednesday - 11 am
Grayling Eagles
Auxiliary #3465
Eagles Club, 602 Huron
Grayling

Wednesday - 6:30 pm
Knights of
Columbus
K of C Hall, 604 Norway
Grayling

Thursday - 7 pm
American
Legion Hall
Post 106 - Grayling

Friday - 6:30 pm
Grayling Eagles
Aerie #3465
Eagles Club, 602 Huron
Grayling

Saturday - 6:30 pm
Frederic
Volunteer Fire
Department
Frederic Township Hall

When You Insure Your Home and Car With Us, You'll Save \$\$\$.

When you insure both your home and car with Auto-Owners, we'll save you money with our special multi-policy discounts.

Call your local Auto-Owners agent today for all the details.

Auto-Owners
Insurance
Life • Home • Car • Business
The "No Problem" People®

The Grayling
Insurance Agency
LIFE • HOME • BUSINESS • CAR

120 Mich. Ave., Grayling, MI, Phone 348-2851



Stop. Go. Pennzoil.™

For One Low Price

- Lube, Oil & Filter on all makes and models
- Top off all under-hood fluids
- Check tire pressure

All for only...

\$20.98*
PLUS
TAX

* Up to 5 quarts of oil. Diesel extra. Other brands of oil also available.

Drive-thru service - no need to leave your car! No appointments necessary



208 S. James St., Grayling (517) 348-3242
Monday - Friday, 8 am to 5:30 pm, Saturday 9 am to 3 pm

Community Calendar

Sponsored by



Submit your public events to the Crawford County Avalanche
348-6811
Deadline: Thursday noon

DECEMBER 1997 Merry Christmas!

THURS 25	•MERRY CHRISTMAS! •SCHOOLS, Commission on Aging, county, city and township offices close for Christmas.
FRI 26	•SCHOOL CLOSED for winter vacation. •ALUMNI BOYS BASKETBALL game @ HS, 7 pm.
SAT 27	•PROMISE KEEPERS breakfast. Call Neil Michal for information.
SUN 28	•ATTEND THE CHURCH of your choice today.
MON 29	•KIWANIS CLUB meeting @ Iron Gate Restaurant, 12 noon. •SCHOOL CLOSED for winter vacation.
TUES 30	•SCHOOL CLOSED for winter vacation. •GPA MEETING @ Iron Gate Restaurant, 12 noon.
WED 31	•ROTARY MEETING @ Patti's Towne House, 12 noon. •WEIGHT WATCHER'S meeting @ St. Francis Episcopal Church, M-72 West; weigh-in 4:45 pm; meeting, 5:30 pm. For more information call Mary, 348-5306. •LIONS CLUB meeting @ Breaker's Steak House, 6:30 pm. •SCHOOL CLOSED for winter vacation. •NEW YEAR'S EVE.

NOW IS THE TIME
to sign up for **DIRECT DEPOSIT**

- Safe
- Convenient
- Reliable
- Easy to sign up



Use Direct Deposit to get your payroll, pension payments and government payments, including Social Security. Ask us how easy it is to sign up.

North Central Area
Credit Union

348-7488

505 Clyde St.
(across from Mercy Hospital)

Open: Monday-Thursday 9-5
Fridays 9-6, Saturdays 9-1

The Bible Speaks Merry Christmas?

From the Calvary
Baptist Church

We've seen people write X-mas or wish others a happy holiday season. Noting the millions of gifts purchased, one might ask whose birthday is being celebrated? Who are the gifts for? Should one reply naming family and friends, we might ask why now, and what for? The suicide rate seems always to increase following the Christmas season. We might ask if some people are buying gifts they can't afford with money they don't like? And if peace and good will are the fruits of Christmas why do some people lose them before the decorations are taken down?

We are not writing to play Scrooge. Our family celebrates Christmas with most of the trimmings just like your family does. We enjoy the lights, the carols, the cards, the gifts, the greetings and all the festivity involved in celebrating Christmas. But Christmas is a day set apart to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. And unless Christ controls the center of our hearts and lives, all our sacrifices given in celebration of His birth may become at least sacrilegious and at worst idolatrous.

We write not to discourage the celebration of Christian holidays, but to encourage the worship of Jesus Christ. It does no more good to ridicule Santa Claus and all the trimmings at Christmas than it does chocolate bunnies, bonnets, and colored eggs at Easter. These are just manifestations of an attempt to rid these holidays of the true message of the birth, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It reminds me of visiting a neighbor back in southern Indiana during the Christmas season many years ago. Following a normal pleasant conversation, he suddenly arose making a gesture of disapproval toward a Christmas card on the wall which I had mailed to him. He said in anger: "I don't know why you can't celebrate Christmas without bringing religion into it?" He had missed the meaning of Christmas!

This Christmas season is a good time to reaffirm our faith and commitment to Jesus Christ. The evergreen tree can remind us that He is eternal God. The lights can remind us that He is the light of the world. Singing Christmas carols can remind us of the Christmas joy. Giving gifts can

remind us of God's greatest gift to us of eternal life through His Son Jesus Christ. The cards with scripture verses can remind us of God's historical account of that first Christmas day in Bethlehem.

(Matthew 1:20-23) "But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost, (21) And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. (22) Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, (23) Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." (2 Corinthians 9:15) "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift."

Pastor "B" Please pray for the ministry of our church Websites at: <http://freeway.net/~cba/> and at <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Ranch/1263/>

Promise Keepers express hope, peace and joy for all

The Promise Keepers (P.K.) of the Crawford, AuSable area, would like to express their hope, for peace and joy in Christ for all, in this Christmas season, and the coming New Year.

On Oct. 4, 1997, in Washington D.C., 1,500,000 Christian men in prayer, shook the gates of hell. It has been said, that not since David gathered Israel together for prayer, has there been such a gathering. It is the hope of P.K. that the walls will come down, and the gathering of men in the Grayling area grow in 1998. Men! The devil knows his

time is short, and he don't like it.

I would like to extend thanks to Bear's Country Inn for allowing us to use their downstairs room. My thanks to Pastor Ron Volker of Grayling Assembly of God, for welcoming the P.K. to the facilities of the Church. Appreciation also to Pastors Al Bell, Terry Colby, Jim Kerr, and Lyle Studer Sr., for their help and participation. Thanks to Rick Lockwood for his help and participation.

Christmas is about Love. The Love that God has for us, in that he sent his son, Jesus. Emmanuel God is with us, into the world, Christmas is a time of Love. When is the last time you told your family members, "I Love You?"

This article is written and paid for by myself.

God Bless You All!
Representing the Grayling area P.K., Pastor Fred (Burt) Albers, 1-517-348-7695

FREE BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSES

Send name, address, and age to
Calvary Baptist Church
Rt. 4 Box 4103-C, Grayling, MI 49738
Call (517) 348-8356 or 348-9220

Cooking class open to youth

Youth in the third to fifth grades can learn how to make an entire meal from appetizers to desserts at a newly forming 4-H Cooking Club. They will learn preparation, nutrition, cooking, equipment and clean-up.

Classes will begin on Jan. 13,

1998 and run for six weeks from 5:30 p.m. at the St. Francis Church. Cost is \$20.

Class is limited to 10 students. Those wishing for more information or to enroll can contact the Crawford County 4-H Office at 348-2844 ext. 264.

Church Directory



It All Spells Christmas

...the beautiful sound of familiar carols in the night, opening gifts, that special look that lights up the faces of children, the joy of reunion with loved ones; it all spells Christmas. Christmas really is special. Wherever we are on December 25th, our hearts are a little warmer. The old problems are still

there, but somehow they seem lighter in the spirit of this most vibrant season of the year.

Just knowing that it's Christmas can help us face problems. There is another source of endless strength that can encourage us throughout the year! It is the assurance of the infinite spirit of God's love and truth, as revealed through His Holy Word and taught through the years within His house.

Let the power of His limitless love, which made the first Christmas possible, be with you as you worship in church this week.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Luke 1:39-58	Luke 1:57-66	Luke 1:67-80	Isaiah 62:1-12	Luke 2:1-20	Luke 2:21-40	John 2:1-12

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
Copyright 1997, Keister-Williams Newspaper Services, P. O. Box 8005, Charlottesville, VA 22906

Christian Science Society
209 First St. - Suite 103 - Gaylord
Sunday Service, 10:30 am
April through October
2nd Wednesday, 8 pm

Michelson Memorial United Methodist Church
Pastor J. Douglas Paterson
400 Michigan Ave. • 348-2974
(temporarily held at AuSable Primary)
Sunday Worship, 10 am
Sunday School, 11:15 am
Coffee Fellowship, 12 noon
Bible Study (Wed.), 10 am

Seventh Day Adventist
Pastor David Stramel
Phone 348-4445
Services held Saturday at Camp AuSable off M-72 East (1st building on right inside camp entrance).
Church Service, 9:30 am
Sabbath School, 10:30 am
Prayer Meeting Tues., 7 pm

Burning Bush Tabernacle
Pastor Patricia Petrie, 348-1278
501 E. Michigan Ave., Grayling
Sunday School, 10 am
Sunday Service & Children's Church, 11 am
Sunday Evening Service, 6 pm
Monday Prayer Meeting, 7 pm
Wednesday Bible Study, 7 pm
Thursday Discipleship Class, 7 pm

Grayling Assembly of God
Rev. Ron Volker, Pastor
701 S. I-75 Business Loop
Church 348-8885 • Parsonage 348-2588
Sunday School, 9:30 am
Morning Worship, 10:30 am
Evening Service, 6 pm
Wednesday - Family Night
Adult-Youth-Children, 7 pm

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
President Larry A. Cook
600 North Elm Street, Gaylord
Sacrament, 10 am
Sunday School, 11 am
Primary, 11 am
Priesthood, 12 noon
Relief Society, 12 noon

Heritage Baptist
Pastor Ernie Wagner 348-1411
1841 Hartwick Pines Rd
1/4 mile west of I-75
Sunday School, 9:45 am
Morning Worship, 11 am
Evening Worship, 6 pm
Wednesday, 7 pm

St. John Evangelical Lutheran (ELCA)
Bible School, 9:15 am
Adult Bible Study, 9:15 am
Sunday Worship, 10:30 am
Nursery is available

Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Pastor Patricia Fowler
North Down River Rd. at 1030 Glenn Rd.
P.O. Box 1188
Church School, 9:45 am
Preaching, 11 am
Midweek Service Prayer, 7 pm

Gaylord Christian Reformed
Rev. V. Schaap
415 Ohio North, Gaylord
Sunday School, 9:45 am
Morning Worship, 11 am
Evening Service, 6 pm
Wednesday Bible Study, 7:30 pm

St. Mary's Roman Catholic Community
Robert W. Nally, J.V., Pastor
700-708 Peninsula • 348-7657
Sabbath Eucharist

Saturday Vigil, 5 pm
Sunday Mass, 8 am
Family Mass, 10:30 am
Sunday Family Bible Study/Sharing, 9:30 am
Daily Masses
Wednesday & 1st, 3rd & 5th Friday, 8:30 am
Daily Worship
Sacrament of Reconciliation, one hour prior to Saturday Vigil Mass, or by appt.

First Baptist Church of Frederic
Pastor Dale Hammond
Sunday School, 9:45 am
Morning Worship, 11 am
Evening Worship, 6 pm
Wed. Prayer & Bible Study, 7 pm

Calvary Baptist church
Dr. Robert Barnett, Pastor
M-72 West
Sunday School, 9:45 am
Morning Worship, 10:30 am
Evening Worship, 6 pm
Mid-Week Services
Wednesday, 7 pm
Prayer & Awana Club (Wed.), 7 pm

Church of Christ
Larry Turner, Minister
Old US-27 at Skyline Rd. • 275-4388
Sunday Classes, 10:30 am
Sunday Worship, 11:15 am
Sunday Evening, 6 pm
Wednesday, 7 pm
Mid-Week Bible Study, 7 pm

Bear Lake Christian
M-72 & East Bear Lake Rd
Sunday School, 9 am
Sunday Service, 10 am

The Church of Christ with the Elijah Message
Pastor Dohn E. Weaver
7662 Kelly Ave., Frederic
Sunday Worship, 10 am & 7 pm
Wed. Prayer Service, 7 pm

Abundant Life Tabernacle
Pastor Lyle Studer
211 Shellenbarger St. • 348-5325
Sunday School, 10 am
Sunday Worship, 11 am & 6:30 pm
Wednesday Evening, 7 pm

Grayling Baptist church
Affiliated with S.B.C.
Pastor Terry Colby
Meeting at Hanson Hills • 348-2557
Sunday School, 9:45 am
Morning Worship, 11 am
Evening Service, 6 pm
Wednesday Service, 7 pm

Harvest Time Church of God
Pastor Fred Coates
506 North Birch St., Kalkaska
(616) 258-3448
Sunday School, 10 am
Worship Service, 11 am & 6 pm
Family Training Hour and Prayer
Wednesday, 7 pm

Lovells Chapel
Pastor Rev. D. Dean Courney
Sunday School, 10 am
Chapel Service, 11 am
Wednesday Prayer Meeting, 7-8 pm

Free Methodist
Joseph Carpenter - Pastor
6652 W. Kalkaska Rd (M-72 W) • 348-5362
Sunday School, 10 am
Morning Service, 11 am
Evening Service, 6 pm
Prayer Meeting (Wednesday), 7 pm

Mt. Hope Evangelical Lutheran-Missouri Synod
Rev. Paul Boerger, Pastor
915 N. I-75 Bus. Lp. • 348-5921 • 348-6504
Sunday School & Bible Study, 9 am
Sunday Worship, 10:30 am
Tuesday Weekday School, 5 pm
Wednesday Bible Study, 9 am
Thursday Women's Bible Study, 9 am

St. Francis Episcopal
Rev. Robert Henley
M-72 West - Office 348-5850
Sunday Holy Eucharist, 8:30 & 10:30 am
Morning Praise, 10:30 am
(the second Sunday of each month)
Adult Sunday School, 9:30 am
Children's Sunday School, 9:30 am
Sunday nursery provided, 10:30 am
Adult Choir Practice (Wednesday), 6:45 pm

St. Martins Ev. Lutheran (Wels)
Herbert R. Pfler - Pastor
For information call 275-5443
Services held at the Roscommon Community Center, Sunday mornings at 9 am, 510 South St., Roscommon, MI.

Luzerne Baptist
Pastor James Durfee
2247 Durfee Lane
Sunday School, 10 am
Sunday Morning Worship, 11 am
Sunday Evening Worship, 6 pm
Wednesday Bible Study, 7 pm

Unity of Gaylord
Rex Franklin, Minister
Oscego Twp. Hall, Waters • (517) 939-7609
Sunday Services, 10:30 am
Sunday School, 10:30 am

This Church Directory is sponsored by the following community-minded individuals and businesses

A-1 APPRAISAL COMPANY
Richard & Terrie Lockwood
348-6775 • Grayling

CENTURY 21 RIVER COUNTRY REAL ESTATE, INC.
Sandy & Randy Thompson
5688 M-72 West • 348-5474

GRAYLING GLASS COMPANY
Ken & Carol Taskey
503 McClellan • Grayling • 348-6641

HOLIDAY INN
2600 I-75 Bus. Loop South
348-7611 • Grayling, Mich. 49738

ELIAS BROTHERS' BIG BOY RESTAURANT
Stop in after church for brunch
348-7654 • 2222 S. Grayling Rd.

LADY SLIPPER & MARY'S CORNER BOOK SWAP
Mary Coy & Bill Coy
203 Michigan • 348-4731

GRAYLING REEL, INC.
4622 West Young Road
Phone 348-5071 • Grayling

DON KERNSTOCK LICENSED BUILDER
New Home Construction
Remodeling • Garages
348-8945 • Grayling

DAVIS JEWELRY
"Guaranteed Watch, Jewelry and Ring Repair in Our Own Shop."
235 Michigan Ave. • Grayling, MI 49738

CORNELL REALTY, INC. CORNELL AGENCY, INC. REAL ESTATE & INSURANCE
I-75 Bus. Loop South • Grayling, Mich.
Phone 348-6761 and 348-6481

MERCY HOSPITAL GRAYLING
"Caring for the Quality of Your Life"
1100 Michigan Avenue
Grayling • 348-5461

ROCHETTE'S IGA
Dennis Rochette & Employees
348-9612 • 508 Cedar • Grayling

COMFORT CENTER
"We Furnish the Comfort... the Rest is Up to You!"
The Miracle Mile • Grayling • 348-2961

OLD KENT BANK OF GAYLORD
Old US-27 North • Grayling • 348-5435

CARLISLE PADDLES, INC.
348-9886 • 4562 E. North Down River Rd.
Grayling, Mich. 49738

HOSPITALITY HOUSE MOTEL
348-8900 • I-75 Bus. Loop • Grayling

SUPERIOR JANITORIAL SERVICES, INC.
Commercial Cleaning Service
Phone 348-2114

JANSEN'S
Plumbing • Heating
1 Block North of Downtown
348-5571 • 501 N. James • Grayling
42 Years in Grayling

MCDONALD'S RESTAURANT
"McDonald's and You"
Breakfast served until 11 a.m. on Sundays
I-75 Bus. Loop South • Ph. 348-2269
Grayling, Michigan 49738

McLEANS ACE HARDWARE
Complete Hardware • Giftware
Sporting Goods
348-2931 • 209 South James • Grayling

HAMRICK REAL ESTATE CO.
J. Lee Hamrick, Owner-Broker
I-75 BL. • across from "Golden Arches"
348-5433
Home • 348-8336

ERNIE'S FLEA MARKET
Open 7 days, year-round • 348-5695
7 miles west of Grayling on M-72

NORTHLAND AREA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
2405 S. Grayling Rd. (next to Kmart)
Grayling • Phone 348-5441

JANSEN INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.
Complete Insurance Service
348-6711 • 237D S. I-75 BL • Grayling

DOORWAYS OF THE NORTH
Entrance Doors Made in Grayling
Grayling, Mich. • 348-5426

HON. ALTON T. DAVIS
Circuit Court Judge

SEARS OF GRAYLING
6372 M-72 West • Grayling
Ph. (517) 348-2861 or (517) 348-2862

CRAWFORD COUNTY ABSTRACT & TITLE
108 Burton Court • Grayling • 348-9832

STEPHAN WOOD PRODUCTS
605 Huron • Grayling, Mich.

SHANGKYU SHIN, M.D.
Obstetrics & Gynecology
1200 N. Down River Rd. • Grayling, MI 49738
517-348-2806

MOORE'S AUTOMOTIVE
348-6371 • 201 James • Grayling

NORTHERN APPRAISAL SERVICE
1380 Little John Ave. • Grayling, MI 49738
(517) 348-4357

This Church Directory is used by residents and visitors.
If you wish to show your support for area churches, call the Avalanche, 348-6811, to be included on this page.

Lack of snow hurting Grayling business, recreation activities

Concluded from pg. 1-A

For the last two years, the park has opened a week earlier than usual because of the abundance of natural snow.

Hanson Hills has felt a loss in revenues, over this time last year, of \$4,580. Still, the staff keeps a positive attitude and in the meantime has accomplished painting projects and other needed maintenance.

Olson said that they could open tomorrow if there is a good snowfall. She explained that she would be happy to make snow if the temperature would remain at 28 degrees and the humidity lower than 72 percent, for a few days. Maintenance costs of the snow making equipment is too high to do otherwise.

The ice skating rink is another story.

"The conditions are not favorable to create an ice rink properly," said Olson. "We need four or five days straight of 32 degrees or colder temperatures to make a real go of it. Ten below for a few days would be great. And, no wind. Wind creates ripples in the ice surface."

Three families have made reservations for sleigh rides with Olson. Already, one has had to be rescheduled.

Director Lynn McConnel said that the Grayling Area Chamber of Commerce has witnessed a definite concern among business owners and operators. Revenue from snow-related sports and activities is almost non-existent. Sales figures are down at gas stations and some area motels have received cancellations.

"Businesses are really depending on the weather," McConnel said. Then she added, optimistically, "We are anticipating more snow."

Jerry Morford, Grayling City Manager, stated that the city is saving money on overtime pay. His concern is that the lack of snow has

been hard on area merchants.

Morford has some worries that, with no insulating snow cover, the temperatures will plummet and the frost will go deeper. This could cause water lines to freeze and break. Although this is a possibility, Morford said that he is confident that, because the newer water lines were placed deeper in the ground, this problems should not arise.

City maintenance crews keep busy performing other tasks when they're not pushing snow out of the way. Crews have been busy repairing and replacing street name signs and faded stop signs, filling pot holes and even street-sweeping. "Imagine that! Street-sweeping in December," exclaimed Morford.

The Road Commission of Crawford County is using less fuel and oil, and saving on salt and sand supply. Also, they have used a lot

less overtime than last year. But, all these savings can be wiped out with just one big snowfall over a week-end or two.

County road crews have been busy cutting back brush and overgrowth, creating better visibility for drivers. Mechanics have had more time for routine maintenance of Road Commission trucks and heavy equipment and are ready to handle the first big snowfall of the season.

The school year has already seemed too long for some students... no snow, no "snow-days". But, the students are happy that, so far, no additional school days have been added to the end of the school year calendar. Some students commented that they are still counting on a white Christmas.

There was one constant with those interviewed for this article:

Cheerfulness is way down in Grayling. Perhaps a little snow will cure that.

Robert Porter named Traverse FIA director

Family Independence Agency director Marva Livingston Hammons has announced the appointment of Robert Porter as director of the Grand Traverse County Family Independence Agency.

Porter, a resident of Grayling, has been an FIA employee since 1974. He has previously worked in Roscommon and Crawford County FIAs and most recently in Crawford/Otsego County FIAs, where he has served as the dual county director since 1995.

"I am very pleased to announce Robert Porter's appointment as director of Grand Traverse County FIA," said Hammons. "He will be an excellent addition to the FIA management team."

As manager of Grand Traverse County, Porter will be responsible for overall operations of the county FIA office, including personnel and field implementation of all programs administered by the agency.

The Family Independence Agency is the state welfare and child protection agency. It has 115 county and district offices serving citizens in all Michigan counties.

The FIA administers the federal TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) grant, food stamps, and other cash assistance programs in Michigan. It also administers child welfare programs in all Michigan counties.

Record breaking Blood Drive

New record set at the November Grayling High School blood drive with 56 first time donors. They were Nathan Beckwith, Katie Olson, Heather Mead, Jessica Weaver, Mandi Kucharek, Christa Gothro, Armand Lawrence, Kimberly Sims, Michael Harland, Chrystal Ruark, Johnathan Britten, Matthew LaForest, Travis Potter, Janice Tobias, William Chase, Danelle Canfield, Gregory Lehto, Victoria Jensen, Nichole Osga, Kristin Kearney, Jennifer Cooper, Aaron McClain, Scotty Martin, Ashley Wakeley, Samantha Millikin, Liberty Galvani, Brian Noeske, Jeremy Jones, Carmen Romani, Sara Autem, Raymond Pyle, Charles Armstrong, Tracy Mileski, James J. Bryan, Shannon Papendick, Nicole Craigie, Neil Jozsa, Nicole Maggo, Jessica Lobsinger, Sara Taylor, Travis Parkinson, Thomas Reimer, Bryan Sattler, James McNamar, Chris Love, Robert Lawe, Raymond Babbitt, Deanna Fleischmann, Danielle McClain, Amy Godlewski, James Mawrer, Gordon Elsner, Ravi Ramaswamy, Eric Albright, Peter Mead, Christina Kenney, Nicholas Harmer and Jamie Nyers. Gallon pins were received: 2 gal.: Shawn R. Ashwork, 4 gal.: Randall D. Black, 5 gal.: John T. Peterson and Dale E. French, 10 gal.: Ruby Petersen, 24 gal.: Alan Elson.

The Frederic Blood Drive had three first time donors, Judith Crampton, Frances Blanchard, and Chris Lauria. Gallon pins were given to: 2 gal.: Robert Fitzpatrick and Julia Mertes, 4 gal.: Edna Kitchen, 5 gal.: Michael Wargo.

The next Crawford County Community Blood Drive will be Wednesday, Jan. 7, 1998 at the American Legion, 12 noon to 5:45

OBITUARIES

Doris Moffatt

Doris Moffatt, 80, of Grayling, passed away Sunday, Dec. 21, 1997 at the home of her daughter in Lambertville.

Doris was employed as a cashier for the Grayling A&P Store for 10 years retiring in 1982. She was a member of the Calvary Baptist Church of Grayling for many years.

Doris is survived by her husband Lorance, daughters: Barbara (Lloyd) Pant, Sharon (Richard) Laurell, Carole (James) Van Brandt, and Darlene (Patrick) Abbey, sons: Leonard (Louise), and Richard (Lois), and Roland (Janice) Wilkins, step-daughter Cassandra (Donald) Vradenberg, step-son, Robert (Judy) Moffatt, 22 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren, 1 great great-grandchild, sisters Leilah Shartzler and Maude Wilkins, brothers Ronald, and Paul Ostrander. She was preceded in death by her grandson Jerry Pant.

Funeral services were held Wednesday at 11 a.m. Interment Toledo Memorial Park.

Those wishing to give Memorials are asked to consider the Hospice of Monroe and Washenaw Counties.

CRAWFORD COUNTY LIBRARY NEWS

by Tracie Compton

The Crawford County Library is automated.

The library staff and volunteers have been busy putting bar codes on library books to make automation possible. The library staff is also putting bar codes on library cards and entering user information in the computer.

Once you have a bar code on your library card and are in the computer you can call the Crawford County Library and renew a book, check on what you have overdue, reserve a book and even get a list printed of what you have overdue.

The card catalog on computer, or OPAC-Online Public Access Catalog, is a Windows program. Using the mouse, you can click click an author, title and or subject, type in your request then hit enter or click on search. The computer will search the database and print a list to the screen of the items you have requested. The list will let you know if an item is checked out by means of a red tag to the left of the title plus list call number and location code. More information about each title is viewed by hitting enter again or clicking on the desired title.

The OPAC also allows you to browse the catalog by word or do an enhanced search. Enhanced searching allows a boolean search using the words and, or and not.

We are still learning how to use the automation system at the Crawford County Library and are happy to share our new knowledge and mistakes with you.

Crawford County Library is open Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Phone number is 348-9214.

Edward John Van Boemel

Edward John Edward Van Boemel, 60, passed away Dec. 21, 1997 at William Beaumont Hospital in Troy.

He was born on Jan. 30 1937 in Royal Oak. He married Elaine (nee Jenners). Mr. Van Boemel was employed by Ameritech.

He is survived by his wife, Elaine Van Boemel of Grayling, children: John (Denise), Gregory (Veronica), and Robin; four grandchildren; one great-grandchild, and brother of: Joanne (Robert), Terry, and Mary (Thomas).

Funeral service was held Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. at St. John Vianney Church with Father Jerome Machlik officiating. Burial in Christian Memorial Cultural Center, Rochester Hills.

Those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider memorials to Americans Lung Association.

Ruth E. Aurand

Ruth E. Aurand, 89, of Grayling, passed away on Dec. 19, 1997 at her residence.

She was born in Lyon Township to Henry and Martha (Struble) Heideman on March 12, 1908.

Mrs. Aurand lived and attended school in the Higgins Lake and Roscommon area before moving to Grayling 60 years ago. She was a homemaker and was preceded in death by her husbands: Bert Confer and George Aurand; as well as her parents, Henry and Martha (Struble) Heidemann. She was an active member of Jehovah's Witnesses for many years.

She is survived by her sister, Evelyn Fraser of Higgins Lake; stepsons: Walter Confer of Texas and Kenneth Aurand of Grand Blanc; and several nieces and nephews.

Memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, 1997 at Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, Grayling, with Mr. Robert Kirm officiating.



Mouth Watering Yuletide Meals

- Spiral Hams • Smoked Turkeys • Shrimp • Lobster
- King Crab • Prime Rib
- Old Fashioned Hams

Tri ★ County Meats

3885 Old 27 South, • Gaylord

517-732-1234

We are on the World Wide Web now!!

Visit our site at:

www.townnews.com/avalanche/

RIALTO

FALL & WINTER SCHEDULE
FRI. & SAT. 7 & 9 PM
SUN. - THURS. 7:30 PM


Admission
Adults - \$4.00
Children under 12 - \$2.75

THIS WEEK'S FEATURE

Friday, December 26 - Thursday, January 1

"Outrageously funny!"

Robin Williams is at his zaniest!"



FLUBBER

THE ABSINTH MINDED PROFESSOR

AuSable & Sound

Auto Repair

Mon. - Fri. 8 am - 5 pm • Sat. 9 am - 3 pm

4595 Salling (Off Industrial Drive, Next to Water Tower)

344-1077

Winter Special Tune-Ups

\$19⁹⁵ 4 cyl. + parts

\$24⁹⁵ 6 cyl. + parts

\$28⁹⁵ 8 cyl. + parts

Vans \$10 extra

FREE 19 Point Winter Check-Out

Coming Soon Complete Audio Sound Systems & Installation!

Come bring in 1998 with us New Year's Eve Party at The Swamp II



Champagne, Party Favors & Breakfast Buffet

Music 9 pm - 2 am

\$10 per person
Enjoy Everyday Drink Prices.

Call 348-8816 for reservations
Located on Old-27 • Frederic

Merry Christmas

Christmas Greetings

We know you've been good... especially to us! Many thanks to all for making our year merry.




Bucci's PIZZA

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Hope your holiday brings you carloads of happiness.

ABEL AUTO PARTS

Located at 8255 Old 27 North,
Frederic, MI 49733
(517) 348-2864 1-800-848-4507




Old-Fashioned Greetings To All

GRAYLING ANTIQUE MALL

100 Michigan Avenue across from the Depot - Gravelly County Museum
The Mall (517) 348-2113 Evenings by Appointment (517) 348-2610

Tidings Of Comfort & Joy

Put your feet up...relax...and bask in the glow of our warm thoughts and holiday wishes.

Comfort Center Furniture Store



Thank you for the last 22 years!




A WISH FOR YOU AT CHRISTMASTIME

Wishing you and your family a joyous and exciting season.

NBD Mortgage

Keith Kenny



Dashing Through The Snow...

We're bringing you our best wishes for a good old-fashioned Christmas, filled with fun, friends and family! Have a jolly holiday!

AAA
AAA Michigan

Linda Stephens
Grayling Mini-Mall

Have a Sparkling White Christmas


We wish you all the very best!



Back: Charlene & Dr. Kerle
Middle: Patti, Gina & Tamara
Front: Cheryl & Cindy

Arthur P. Kerle, DDS
Office will be closed Christmas Eve & Christmas Day
517-348-2626

HOLIDAY GREETINGS



Left to Right: Dr. Dean, Cory Dean, Dianne Branch, Dr. Aubry, Shawn Denton & Julie Ginther

We hope the season brings beautiful moments shared with beloved family members, the best of friends, and good neighbors like you.

Many thanks for your kind patronage

William Dean, O.D.
& Robert Aubry, O.D.
Family Vision Care
904 Michigan Ave. - Grayling 517 348-3211



TOP AWARD — The Grayling City Township Fire Department has been honored by the National Fire Safety Council for outstanding and dedicated service in fire and burn prevention. The 1997 school year is the local department's fourth year participating in the Fire Pup Program. Pictured accepting the award for the Grayling department is Steve Doyle (right), fire safety officer, and presenting is Bob Koch (left) of the national organization.

RANGE FIRING

Range firing will be conducted at Camp Grayling during the period of Dec. 25, 1997 through Dec. 31.

The Range 40 Complex, Air to Ground, located north of County Road 612, east of Guthrie Lake, south of Old State Road 618, and west of County Road P97 (Twin Bridge Road).

For further information, call (517) 348-3603 or 1-800-628-5820.

Fire department conducts fire safety program for children

Dean Goss of Grayling City Township Fire Department announced today the fire department is continuing a commitment to fire prevention. As part of this commitment, the department is organizing its annual Fire and Burn Safety Program for the children of Grayling.

Over 775 youngsters, ages five through 12 will receive educational fire prevention materials created and geared to each specific age level.

This comprehensive program includes fire safety guidebooks that contain 24 activity pages designed by educators to stimulate the child's awareness and independent thinking about the everyday fire hazards he or she may encounter.

Various other fire safety booklets, folders, posters, and brochures are made available to encourage the prevention of destructive fires, painful burns, disfiguring injuries, and needless death.

Bob Koch, of the National Fire Safety Council, Inc. (NFSC) will be helping local fire fighters in planning and delivering programs to the school children. Koch is the Area Fire Safety Coordinator of the NFSC. The National Fire Safety

Council is a federal tax-exempt nonprofit organization under the Internal Revenue Service Code of 501-C-3 and all contributions are tax-deductible.

The Grayling City Township Fire Department is in the process of mailing sponsor request letters explaining the entire program to the area business, industrial and professional leaders, asking for their financial support to help cover the cost of the materials used by the department.

Chief Goss stresses to prospective sponsors that this is the only program of this type that the Grayling City Township Fire Department will be conducting this year. Should any other person solicit for support, especially by phone or in person, and does not have a letter from Chief Dean Goss, please contact the fire department immediately.

COMPUTER & INTERNET CLASSES

Introduction To The Skyway
Life Internet software suite
6-9 pm • 2nd & 4th Thursday of month • \$50

Introduction to the Microsoft Internet Explorer software suite
6-9 pm • 1st Thursday of month • \$50

Introduction to the Netscape Internet software suite
6-9 pm • 3rd Thursday of month • \$50

Using HTML to create a Web page and FTP to store it
8 am - 3 pm • 1st Saturday of month • \$150

Introduction to Windows 95
7-9 pm • 1st & 3rd Monday of month • \$50

Intermediate Windows 95
6-9 pm • 2nd & 4th Monday of month • \$75

Introduction to Microsoft Word
7-9 pm • 1st Tuesday of month • \$50

Intermediate Microsoft Word
6-9 pm • 1st Wednesday of month • \$75

Introduction to Microsoft Excel
7-9 pm • 2nd Tuesday of month • \$50

Intermediate Microsoft Excel
6-9 pm • 2nd Wednesday of month • \$75

Introduction to Microsoft Access
7-9 pm • 3rd Tuesday of month • \$50

Intermediate Microsoft Access
6-9 pm • 3rd Wednesday of month • \$75

Microsoft Office Integration
6-9 pm • 4th Tuesday of month • \$75

Introduction to Quickbooks
6-9 pm • 4th Wednesday of month • \$75

CLASSES NOW FORMING. CALL TODAY!



EPCS™ (517) 732-1366

epcs@freeway.net <http://www.freeway.net/epcs/classes>

Toll-free 888-732-1366 • Fax 517-732-0893

TERRY'S SPORT CENTER, INC.

Snowmobile Parts Service & Accessories

ARCTIC CAT
What Snowmobiling's All About™

Gas & Trail Maps Available **517-348-7513**

Fun 'n' Sun SNOWMOBILE RENTALS

- New....Two Passenger Machines
- Near Blue Bear Trailhead
- Daily & Weekend Rates

3 Miles west of Grayling at Blue Bear Trailhead
517-348-2188

AREA BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

Put your business before over 8,000 readers and the Internet for \$92 for 6 months (\$3.54 per week)

Home Page Address: www.townnews.com/avalanche/

ACCOUNTANTS

Michael A. DiPonio
Certified Public Accountant
Lake Margrethe • PO Box 607
Grayling, Michigan 49738
(517) 348-1704
Accounting, tax and consulting services

Mickey Perez P.C.
Certified Public Accountant
115 Michigan Ave.
(517) 348-2811
OFFICE HOURS
Monday thru Friday • 8 to 5

AREA SERVICES

John D. Cherven
Certified Public Accountant
Grayling Mini-Mail
P.O. Box 825
348-2554
Tax Preparation and Consultation
General Accounting Services

COMPUTER SERVICES COMPANY
PC's • PRINTERS • FAX MACHINES
New Equipment -- Any Make or Model
LOWEST PRICE AVAILABLE • PROMPT LOCAL SERVICE
FREE CONSULTATION & ESTIMATE **(517) 348-2244**

IDENTIFY YOURSELF!
IDENTIFY YOURSELF WITH PRIDE WITH CUSTOM PRINTED BUSINESS CARDS FROM THE AVALANCHE

ALUMINUM STAINLESS STEEL STEEL
In stock
CUT TO SIZE
UPS DELIVERY
Rounds, Squares, Flats
Structural Shapes, Tubing, Plate

RIFKIN STEEL COMPANY
1443 N. Niagara, Saginaw, MI 48602-4782
1-800-906-6699

Milltown Motors USED CARS & TRUCKS
All kinds of automotive repair
Pickup truck accessories, covers and caps
EAZ-LIFT Hitches & Towing products
Old 27 North - Grayling
(517) 348-7352

THIS SPACE FOR RENT
Reach thousands of readers, and be on the Internet, for pennies a day...the Business Directory costs only \$92 for six months (\$3.54 per week).
Home Page address:
www.townnews.com/avalanche/

BUILDING & REMODELING SERVICES

CASS Construction
6411 Military Rd., Grayling, MI 49738
(517) 348-7087
Additions • Hardwood Floors
New Homes • Garages
Licensed
GREG CASS

Carl Gildner, Builder
(517) 348-4068
Friendly, dependable service
• Licensed & Insured • Remodeling
• Small Structures • Painting
• Garages • Drywall
• Roofing and more!
PO Box 1111, Grayling, MI 49738

Milltown Painting & Decorating
Commercial/Residential • Interior/Exterior
Powerwash and Sandblasting Services
Senior Discounts • Free Estimates
(517) 348-1166 David Moggo Grayling, Michigan

Fred Mills Builder with Tim Calkins
Log Cabins • Homes • Remodeling
Roofs • Custom Artwork
Honest & Reliable • Licensed
Fred - **(517) 821-5707**
Tim - **(517) 348-3103**

TREE TRIMMING & REMOVAL
Stump Grinding
Concrete or Wood Seawalls
Landscaping
30 years experience
Guaranteed Construction
Estimates Given & Insured
JOHN SCHILBE
517-275-5021 • 1-800-428-3019

DOORWAYS OF THE NORTH
Serving All Of Northern Michigan Since 1980 With Warehouse & Showroom at 2306 S. Industrial Grayling
(517) 348-5426
Sales, Service & Installation
Windows, Doors & Garage Doors

Richard L. Martin Construction
Division of Classic Log Homes, Inc.
Frame & Log homes • Remodeling Kitchen & Bath
Additions • Garages • Design Service & Plans Available
Window replacement (Certified Pella Contractor)
Vinyl & Aluminum Siding (Custom Blending)
More than 20 years experience • Licensed & Insured
PO Box 125 • Higgins Lake, Michigan
(517) 821-6118

New Construction • Remodeling • Restoration
Pole Buildings • Decks • Roofs • Saunas
Bathrooms • Custom Carpentry
Free Estimates • Excellent References
25 Years' Experience
NORTH BRANCH CONSTRUCTION
Daniel Kimball, Licensed & Insured Builder
(517) 348-5888 • 3433 Lowell's Rd • Grayling, MI 49738

Accent PAINTING & INTERIORS
COMMERCIAL-RESIDENTIAL
Licensed & Insured
• Painting • Staining
• Deck Refinishing • Power Washing
• Custom Wallcoverings
• Parking Lot Striping
Smoke & Water Damage
All Work Guaranteed
15 Years Experience
(517) 826-3025

COLLEN CONTRACTORS
Licensed • Insured
• Basement • Backhoe
• Crawl Spaces • Septic Systems
• Slabs • House Moving
• Sidewalks • Excavating
(517) 348-6184

Grayling Glass
Auto • Residential • Commercial
Glass Installation
Mobile Service
1172 I-75 Bus. Loop
Grayling, MI 49738
(517) 348-6641 Office
(517) 732-5243 after 5:00 pm
1-800-446-6850
SCOTT TASKEY Manager

William Gildner, Sr. Licensed Builder
39 Years Experience in the Grayling area
Homes • Additions • Garages
Remodeling • Decks • Roofing
Window Replacements • Siding
348-8472
Rt. 4, Box 4306 • Grayling, MI 49738

Expert Installation MILLTOWN CARPET
Sales • Service • Repairs
Commercial • Residential
Industrial • Licensed & Insured
Free In Home Estimates
Located M-72 West,
across from Aunt Betty's Restaurant
517-348-8322

Commercial • Industrial • Residential Primary Electric Co. Electrical Contractors
P.O. Box 398
Grayling, MI 49738
David Small
Bus. 348-6440 Res. 348-4666

PETERSON CONSTRUCTION
Licensed & Insured
Dan Peterson
All types of Building & Alterations
(517) 348-4853

J. T. Cochrane Construction
New Homes • Remodeling • Additions
Garages • Decks • Roofing
John T. Cochrane **(517) 348-8527**
e-mail: jtcocrane@juno.com

A-1 Top Soil for Sale
\$14 per yard, \$100 cash discount on 100-yard orders.
We are digging up our farm land and processing the black dirt into a fine top soil, just right for that lawn of yours. We have thousands of yards on hand.
V. J. Top Soil
(517) 348-2631

Dixon Construction Co.
1155 Goosecreek Rd. • Grayling
Experienced Professional Custom Builder To Service You
Specializing in: New Home Construction, Pole Building, Garages, Custom Built Decks, Additions
• Licensed • Bonded • Insured
Robert C. Dixon • Owner / Lic. Builder
PH. 517-348-6405

Beckett Contracting, Inc.
P.O. Box 319
Grayling, Michigan 49738
Licensed • Insured
New Homes • Additions • Siding
Remodeling • Garages • Roofing
Phone 348-7237

CAL SCHREIBER LICENSED BUILDERS
Homes • Remodeling
Garages • Additions
Roofing • Siding
Rt. 5, Box 5055, Grayling, MI 49738
Dave Schreiber **(517) 348-5858**

We Can Save You Time And Money

One-stop shopping. Drop off your prescription, do your shopping then pick up your prescription.
Fast, no-wait, friendly service.
All major third-party plans accepted.
Complete line of Generics.
Plenty of free, convenient parking.



Glen's Pharmacy Wants to Serve You

Look at the services and conveniences we offer:

- ☞ Free drug allergy screening.
- ☞ Computerized records for your tax and insurance purposes.
- ☞ Drug leaflet, proper use of drugs, methods of administration; potential side effects and proper storage.

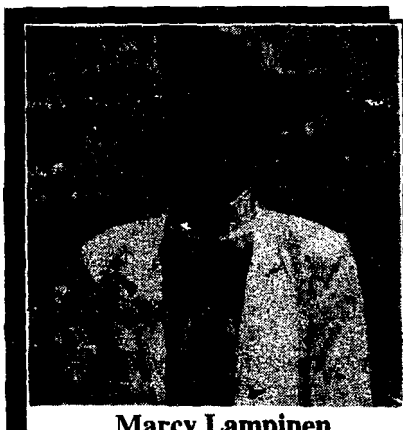
We are dedicated to making sure you get the right price on all your prescriptions with the best possible service.

Pharmacy Hours:
Monday-Saturday, 9 am - 6 pm
Closed Sunday

(517) 348-5335



Located in Glen's Market,
1-75 Business Loop S.



Marcy Lampinen



ILLUMINATION — Mercy Manor resident Mildred Curtis illuminates the Lights of Love tree at Mercy Hospital Friday, Dec. 12. The tree lighting ceremony was highlighted by a check presentation of \$12,500 by the Mercy Auxiliary. Pictured are Mercy representatives from left, Jim DeYoung, Debra Looney, Marlene Lippard and Stephanie Riemer-Matuzak.



CHRISTMAS BELLS — Christmas bells were ringing Friday, Dec. 12 when the Michelson Memorial handbell choir performed at Mercy Hospital. The traditional gathering was held in the hospital cafeteria following the Lights of Love ceremony. Hundreds of names are memorialized on the brightly lit Christmas tree. The Mercy Hospital Auxiliary has raised \$5,300 for this year's Lights of Love.

McManus bill to protect kids gets approval

A bill sponsored by Sen. George McManus (R-Traverse City) has passed the state Senate unanimously as part of a package of bills designated to offer better protection and nurturing of Michigan's children.

The bills, based on recommendations by Lt. Gov. Connie Binsfeld's Children's Commission, offer improvements to Michigan's child welfare system.

The McManus bill expands foster care review boards statewide, and allows boards to better monitor the movement of children within the foster care system.

"Children are our most vulnerable citizens, and many suffer as a result of neglect, abuse, and broken homes," McManus said. "The measures we have adopted will protect children, while making any necessary transitions to foster homes and adopted parents as smooth as possible."

Highlights of the package include:

- giving priority for substance

abuse services to parents whose children are, or may be, removed due to child abuse or neglect related to substance abuse;

•keeping siblings from the same family together while in foster care

•prohibits interviewing an allegedly abused child in the presence of the alleged perpetrator;

•requiring reviews by prosecutors of all substantiated Child Protective Service cases involving the death, serious physical harm, sexual abuse or exploitation of a child.

McManus praised the lieutenant governor for her work on the Children's Commission:

"Lt. Gov. Binsfeld provided outstanding leadership in chairing the Children's Commission," he said. "Her concern for children has long been evident, and through this legislation her influence will benefit Michigan's youth far into the future."

The Binsfeld package now proceeds to Gov. Engler for signing into law.

from HISTORY'S SCRAPBOOK

DATES AND EVENTS FROM YESTERYEARS

December 20, 1820--Missouri enacts a law ordering unmarried men between the ages of 21 and 50 to pay a tax of a dollar a year.

December 21, 1944--Horse racing is banned in the United States for the duration of World War II.

December 22, 1650--Bakers in New England are required by new law to make bread of standard weight loaves--using only pure wheat or rye flour.

December 23, 1928--A permanent coast-to-coast radio network is established by NBC.

December 24, 1949--A new Christmas song becomes popular throughout America--"Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer."



AREA BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

Put your business before over 8,000 readers and the Internet for \$92 for 6 months (\$3.54 per week)

Home Page Address: www.townnews.com/avalanche/

AREA SERVICES

Mark Schulte
TREE CARE
Certified Arborist • Fully Insured • Aerial Equipment • Tree Climbing • View Development • Tree Trimming • Tree Removal • Stump Grinding • Custom Band Sawing
Higgins Lake
517-821-8555 • 1-800-829-8555

MYERS LAND SURVEY CO., INC.
P.O. Box 831
Grayling MI 49738
Ph. (517) 348-4036
Marvin E. Myers,
Licensed Surveyor
Michigan No. 31600

AJD FOREST PRODUCTS
LARGEST INDUSTRIAL LUMBER PRODUCER IN THE LAKE STATES
We Buy Standing Timber With Supervised Cutting By Our Professional Foresters.
"A Forest Friendly Company"
Four Mile Road • P.O. Box 699
Grayling, MI 49738
(517) 348-5412

SUPERIOR JANITORIAL SERVICE, INC.
Commercial -- Industrial
PHONE
348-2114

Over 25 years experience
P & C Appliance Service
Service you will tell your friends about
P.O. Box 145
(517) 348-0141 Grayling, MI 49738

PINEVIEW SURPLUS & SUPPLY
ARMY NAVY
Don & Chris Klatt
517-348-6300
Fax 517-348-7855
Pineview Motel
7328 Old 27 North
Frederic, MI 49733

Need A "Housewatcher"?
We will look after your seasonal or full time home all 4 seasons, 1 week or 52.
Reasonable Rates • Experienced Satisfaction Assured
Call AuSable Valley Security
517-348-6294 or 517-348-7333
The "Housewatcher People"
Licensed & Bonded

AuSable Cash Registers
24-Hour Service
- Sales - Service -
- Supplies -
All makes and models
Time Clocks
(517) 348-1348

Shawn Thomas TREE SERVICE
REMOVAL & TRIMMING
• FULLY INSURED •
517-348-6950
P.O. BOX 297 FREDERIC, MI 49733

PORTABLE SERVICE
• Industrial
• Commercial • Residential
• Welding Repair & Fabrication
4-MILE WELDING
Western Snowplows
Sales & Service
1/4 mile west of I-75 on 4-Mile Road, Grayling • 348-2613

Disck-A-Key MUSIC UNLIMITED
Music for all occasions at reasonable rates!
Jason Glick
(517) 348-3253
Voice Mail: (517) 695-1776

ADVANCED BUSINESS MACHINES, INC.
"People dedicated to service"
SHARP
COPIERS • FAX
106 Michigan Ave. (517) 348-8717
GRAYLING, MI 1-800-922-5184

We are on the World Wide Web now!!
Visit our site at:
www.townnews.com/avalanche/
Avalanche
102 Mich. Ave. Grayling • 348-6811

Thermogas
PROPANE & APPLIANCES
525 N. Grayling Road, Grayling, MI 49738
Rick Anderson (517) 348-6241 District Sales Manager
Doug Hartshorn (800) 477-6241 Sales Representative

Hartwick Pines Mobile Home Park
I-75 and M-93 at Roberts Road
A new mobile home park featuring:
Paved Streets Natural Gas Security Snow Removal Lighting Trash Pick-up
Lot Rent \$180 per month
Phone (810) 227-7350

BUILDING & REMODELING SERVICES

JACK MILLIKIN, INC.
Excavating
Masonry Work
Redline Concrete
Complete Septic Systems & Cleaning
348-8411

Don Kernstock
New Homes Remodeling Additions
Garages Cement Work Roofing
Licensed & Insured
517/348-8945
107 Kings Court, Grayling, MI 49738

KARP'S
Custom Kitchens & Quality Furniture
Complete Wood or Formica Kitchens • Bathrooms • Countertops • Etc.
Over 20 years experience
Proud to be a part of Grayling's growth & development
Grayling, Michigan

Milltown Electric
Residential • Commercial • Industrial
Electrical • Energy Management • Fire Alarms • Security Systems
RICK DAVIS
Licensed & Insured
517-348-5280 • 517-348-6101 FAX

Milltown Sand & Gravel
Road Gravel • Top Soil • Landfilling • Bulk Hot • Churn • & Roads
Septic Pumps & Systems
Machine Block & Cement
Senior Citizen Discount
(517) 348-8742

Don't Miss Out! Get Your AVALANCHE Subscription Today

JOHN HOWE
Building & Construction
Licensed Builder
Homes • Garages • Decks • Additions
Custom Quality Work
1460 E. North Down River Road
Grayling, MI 49738
(517) 348-8556

DAY CONSTRUCTION
Residential Builder
Garages • Additions
Decks • Roofs
Trailer Roof-Over System
No Job Too Small
Licensed & Insured
209 N. 6th St.
Roscommon, MI 48653
(517) 275-4856

MORTON BUILDINGS, INC.
Commercial and Industrial
WAREHOUSES • RETAIL • STORAGE SHOWROOMS • OFFICES • SHOPS
www.mortonbuildings.com
616-258-2580
1-800-447-7436
Gerome Langworthy

Residential • Commercial
Interior • Exterior
Wallpapering • Staining
Powerwashing • Textured Ceilings
INSURED
(517) 348-6090

Dave Ross Builder
Licensed & Insured
Quality work in Grayling area since 1972
P.O. Box 252 • Grayling Phone: 348-6444

McCLAIN-KOWATCH
Opening the Door to Your Future
Scott McClain
P.O. Box 186 Grayling, Michigan 49738 (517) 348-2793 Fax (517) 732-8792

PIERSON-GIBBS HOMES, INC.
BUILD YOUR OWN HOME The easy way
We build the shed you finish it.
Save Thousands • Finish it Yourself
Construction Financing Available
Custom Home Builder
Build Any Plan
Ken Huber (800) 242-5094 1116 Cedar Street
Scott McClain (517) 348-2793 St. Clair, MI 48079

James Parkinson
Remodeling Additions Siding Custom Homes Garages Roofing
(517) 348-8888
Grayling, Michigan Grayling, MI 49738

CERAMIC TILE
By: T-S-O Construction
now serving Crawford County
Tub Enclosures • Jacuzzi Tubs
Countertops • Floors
517-821-6776
Tim St. Onge Higgins Lake Licensed Insured

Lowe co-sponsors legislation against phone slamming service

A consumer protection measure recently approved by the Michigan House addresses the growing problems associated with the unauthorized switching of telephone services.

State Rep. Allen Lowe said although "slamming" is a federal offense, it is not illegal under Michigan law, thus the Public Service Commission (PSC) has no authority to enforce penalties against companies engaging in the practice.

"I co-sponsored this legislation because it gives the PSC more authority as a consumer watchdog," said Lowe. Republican vice-chair of the House Senior Citizens and Veterans Affairs Committee "All Michigan residents, especially seniors, deserve additional safeguards."

"Without state regulation, renegade companies are free to continue their unlawful activities, and people are unaware of their rights to request further information about alternative companies."

Currently, the PSC records customers complaints and tries to get credits for people who have been

slammed. Sometimes the PSC forwards the complaints to the Federal Communications Commission which has the jurisdiction to fine.

House Bill 5280 creates the Michigan Slamming Prohibition Act. Under the bill, penalties for failure to comply with the act include:

- Up to a \$40,000 fine for each violation.
- A refund to the customer of any collected excessive rates.
- License revocation for a pattern of violations, or a cease and desist order.

Michigan ranked eighth in unlawful carrier switching complaints, according to a recent survey by the National Consumers League.

Competition among long-distance telephone service companies is out of control when customers discover their carrier has been switched without their authorization," said Lowe (R-Grayling). Slamming cannot be tolerated, and this bill gives Michigan regulators more tools to combat an expensive and obnoxious practice."

The legislation now goes to the Senate.



A SEASON FOR GIVING -- Instead of having an office gift exchange, Cornell Insurance and Real Estate donates toys to the Christian Help Center. The toys go to local families. (Front row, left to right) Victor Johnson of the Christian Help Center and Ron Thomson. (Middle row) Paul Thomson, Teri Vanderlaan, Darrell Metzger, Bill Kraus, Fred Shippy, Owen Roberts, Jayson Welser and Diann Murphy. (Back row) Michelle Phillips, Linda Northrop, Doronda Klee, Annette Metzger, Casey Smith, Jill Rutter, Steve Green, George Stancil, Curly LaMotte and Margaret Chappell. Photo by Dawn Workman.

Early Deadlines! Avalanche publishing early for New Year holiday!!

Avalanche will publish on Tuesday, Dec. 30 so newsstand buyers and our local subscribers will receive the issue before the New Year holiday.

The deadline for full page, half page, or color display ads, for the Dec. 31 issue, must be turned in by noon, Tuesday, Dec. 23. The deadline for all display ads smaller than a half page is noon Wednesday, Dec. 24, to be considered for the next issue. Community news items and classified display ads must be turned in by noon Friday, Dec. 26. Classified ads by the word must be turned in by noon, Monday, Dec. 22.

The Avalanche will be closed Thursday, Dec. 25, in observance of the Christmas holiday, and reopen at 9 am Friday, Dec. 26.

Michiganians head south for winter

About this time of year, many Michiganians make their annual trek to Florida, which means big business for travel agencies, airlines, car rental agencies and AAA Michigan.

"The Sunshine State is a second home to many from Michigan," said AAA Travel Director Bill Best. "We play a significant role in Florida's annual \$37.9 billion tourism industry. In fact, we sent 1.85 million Michigan residents to Florida in 1996."

Although Florida is a popular year-round destination, the majority of Michigan residents plan trips between November and April, said Best.

Scheduled air fares to Orlando, the most frequently visited winter destination, can range from \$300 to \$1,000, depending on availability, advance purchase and restrictions. The price is even less with special

Florida charters. During the winter travel season (November-April), AAA Michigan's Touring Department prepares an average 50,000 Florida routings for Auto Club members.

Three Florida destinations continue to dominate as top tourist favorites during the winter months. The No. 1 vacation spot is Orlando, which offers the 28,000-acre Walt Disney World complex: Magic Kingdom, EPCOT Center, Disney-MGM Studios Theme Park, Pleasure Island, championship golf courses, resort hotels and shopping village.

New this year, Disney has entered the cruise ship market, offering a unique Disney-style land and sea adventure. Special on-board programs are available for kids and teens.

Other attractions in the Orlando area include Gatorland, Sea World

of Florida, Universal Studios, public golf courses and dozens of inland lakes," Best added.

Tampa/St. Petersburg is the second most-visited Florida area. Among the popular attractions here: Busch Gardens/Tampa Bay. This 300-acre park offers rides, live entertainment, animal exhibits and games. Adult visitors to Busch Gardens visit the Moroccan marketplace, tropical Bird Gardens or Anheuser-Busch brewery.

Another emerging Florida "hot spot" can be found in state's panhandle -- in the Destin/Fort Walton Beach area, referred to as the "Emerald Coast." The region boasts 24 unspoiled white sand beaches and spectacular dunes. The offers the largest charter boat fishing fleet in Florida, exceptional diving and snorkeling and top-notch golf.

New Year's Eve Party

Join us at the Sawmill

December 31 • 8 pm to 1 am

Where "Free Wheelin' Fred" will be jammin' into '98

Party Favors

No Cash Change
Must be 21 with picture ID

104 Michigan Ave, Grayling • 348-4588

AREA BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

Put your business before over 8,000 readers and the Internet for \$92 for 6 months (\$3.54 per week)

Home Page Address: www.townnews.com/avalanche/

MEDICAL SERVICES		PLUMBING & HEATING		TRAVEL	
GRAYLING MERCY HOSPITAL <small>Associated with the Michigan State University Health System</small> (517) 348-5461	Hospice of Michigan Roscommon Office 100 N. Main St. P.O. Box 542 Roscommon, MI 48663 (517) 275-8967 • 1-800-449-5560 <small>Serving Roscommon, Crawford and neighboring counties</small> A resource of HOPE for people living with terminal illness.	MEL WELLS INC. WELL DRILLING & REPAIR • 4-16 inch wells Steel and PVC Casing New & Used Pump Sales and Service Serving a 5 county area - year round 517-826-5108 RUSSELL HEHR	Hebert Plumbing & Heating Residential & Commercial Plumbing • Heating • Mechanical Service available 24 hours • Custom Sheet Metal Shop Call for free estimates 348-4900 26 N I-75 Bus. Loop • Grayling <small>(1 mile N of M-72 West light)</small>	Jim's Well Drilling Water Wells • Pump Service Free Estimates • Residential & Commercial Grayling & Surrounding Area 517-348-8788 1.3 miles East of Grayling (M-72), 2 mile North on Clear Water Trail	ALL ABOUT TRAVEL of Houghton Lake, Inc. Travel Arrangements The World Over Call Us For • Airline Tickets At Airport Prices "Senior Discounts" • Cruises • Tours • Hotels • Cars Individuals and Groups 1-800-622-0986 or 366-8344
Roscommon Walk-In Medical Clinic • Physicals • Treatment of minor injuries & illnesses Frederick L. Lawrence, M.D. Monday through Friday 11 am to 4 pm No appointments necessary, but accepted (517) 275-8565 108 Main St. • Roscommon (Behind Gavis)	We are on the World Wide Web now!! Visit our site at: www.townnews.com/avalanche/ Crawford County Avalanche 102 Mich. Ave. Grayling • 348-6811	Jansens Plumbing, Heating SALES & SERVICE Appliance Parts • Pump Service Licensed Plumbing & Mechanical Contractors 42 Years In Grayling 1 block North of Downtown 501 N. James • Grayling • 348-5571	Clyde's Heating & Plumbing SALES & SERVICE Licensed Master Plumber Licensed Mechanical Contractor --FREE ESTIMATES-- 702 Michigan Ave. Phone 348-9717	SCOTT'S SEPTIC SYSTEM SERVICE Installation Clearing Repairs Residential & Commercial • Complete Excavating Service • Radio Dispatched Insured • New Equipment Roscommon, Michigan • Phone 275-5011	North Village Travel Inc. A FULL SERVICE TRAVEL AGENCY Monday - Friday 9-5 • Saturday 10-2 Northland Plaza • Kalkaska 258-4123 or 800-462-0501
Grayling Hospital for Animals, P.C. DR. WAYNE L. CASLER DR. PAUL W. MESACK DR. TROY FAIRBANKS 714 Isenhauer Rd. Grayling, Michigan 49738 AT ALL TIMES PH. 348-8622 HOURS: BY APPOINTMENT	Bell Hearing Center Drive a little... Save a lot! Edna L. Bell • Hearing Aid Specialist/Dealer Tues., Wed. & Thurs. • 9 - 5 Evening, Weekend & "In Home" appointments available Provider for all insurances 2874 M-72 • Kalkaska, MI 616-258-6577	NORTHERN MECHANICAL • Heating • Air Conditioning • Sheet Metal Fabrication • Licensed Boiler Installer • 22 Years Experience • Insured • Licensed Mechanical Contractor 348-6574 HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING	DAN'S PLUMBING & SERVICE Licensed Master Plumber Licensed Mechanical Contractor PLUMBING INSTALLATION HEATING New Homes Remodeling of Kitchen & Baths Repairs Boilers Forced Air Repairs Free Estimates Dan Wichert • 348-2539	Casino Shuttle FREE TRIP* TO Turtle Creek and Leelanau Sands Casino LUCKY 7 CASINO EXPRESS Free reservations call (517) 348-1942 <small>*Cost of transportation and admission is defrayed by \$30 cash reimbursement at casino</small>	
BUILDING & REMODELING SERVICES					
Been Turned Down? Call for Mortgage Alternatives Kathy Rogers, Office Manager 2375 I-75 Business Loop, Suite 5 Grayling, MI 49738 (517) 348-2021 (800) 731-2021 Fax: (517) 348-7102	Drumb Electric 517-348-4416 Residential • Commercial Industrial Good Service Licensed & Insured	THAD POOLEY'S PAINTING Licensed • Insured Residential • Commercial Interior • Exterior Staining • Varnishing Free Estimates Reasonable Rates 517-348-4576	AuSable CONSTRUCTION BUILDING IN NORTHERN MICHIGAN SINCE 1978 RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL 2342 S. Millikin Rd. Grayling Industrial Park Grayling, Michigan (517) 348-5477 FAX (517) 348-3232		
AuSable Valley Home Inspections PROFESSIONAL HOME INSPECTIONS BY TWO LICENSED BUILDERS Home inspections performed for Realtors, Buyers, Sellers and Lending Institutions (517) 348-8472 Rt. 4, Box 4306, Grayling, Michigan	LAL'S MASONRY, INC. The Foundation Dreams Are Built On • Cultured Stone • Block • Brick • Flatwork • Fireplaces (517) 348-8179 Licensed & Insured	THOROLD BUILDERS New Homes Garages Remodels Kitchen Remodels Bath Remodels 4487 THUNDERBOLT RD. GRAYLING, MI 49738 (517) 348-6670	REDUCE YOUR MORTGAGE NOW! • Pay your mortgage off 10-15 years sooner! • Save \$50,000 to \$100,000 or more! • Make sure your lender isn't miscalculating your mortgage & costing you thousands! How? The Homeowner's Advantage Program™ Call for FREE INFORMATION (517) 348-2021 or (800) 731-2021		
B & C Poured Walls You Can't Beat Concrete Grayling, Michigan (517) 344-1200			SUPPORT GROUPS SUPPORT GROUPS FOR Victims Of Domestic Violence Emotional • Verbal Sexual • Physical Weekly groups available in Crawford & Ogemaw counties For more information, Call River House Shelter • 348-3169 COLLECT CALLS ACCEPTED		
Grayling Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings SUNDAY 8 pm • St. Francis Episcopal Church, 12/12 meeting, open speaker last Sunday of month. Open to everyone MONDAY 12 noon • St. Mary's Catholic Church, Lake Street, Grayling, 8 pm • Frederic TUESDAY 8 pm • St. Mary's Catholic Church, Lake St., Grayling. Almon at same time WEDNESDAY 12 noon • St. Mary's Catholic Church, Lake Street, Grayling, 7 pm • Alpine Carpet, Waters THURSDAY 8 pm • Grayling City Hall FRIDAY 12 noon & 8 pm • St. Mary's Catholic Church, Lake Street, Grayling For information, call Don O., 348-3098					



Recipe For A Sweet Season:

Mix one part good will with two parts joy, and sprinkle with a dash of cheer. Stir well and serve in generous portions to all!

Joyous Noel from all of us elves at

Goodale's Bakery



SANTA'S BACK...

To wish you all good health, good posture and a wonderful holiday season.

Thanks for your friendship and trust in us.

Dr. Toupin

Closed Dec. 23 to Jan 4, 1998



*It's Always A
Treat To
Serve You*

*Merry Christmas and an extra
helping of thanks!*

Crawford County Abstract
Jim, Mary Ann, Pam, Jeanette & Nan

Merry Christmas

The simplest things in life are still the most wonderful, and we'd simply like to say, thanks!

Jansen's
THE SERVICE STORE
501 Cedar - Grayling - (517) 348-8871
1 Block North of Downtown

**ALL OUR
HOLIDAY
BEST**

*Season's Greetings And
Many Happy Returns.*

**Burger King
Of Grayling**

*The happiest of holidays to you and yours.
We so greatly appreciate having good friends
and clients like you.*

Merry Christmas

TERRENCE H. BLOOMQUIST

And Associates
Terry Bloomquist
Monte Burmeister
Jodi Potter
Chris Ostwald
(517) 348-6141
306 State Street
Grayling, Michigan

Season's Greetings

Thank you for putting your trust in us.

Grayling Township

SANTA'S SHOPPING WISH LIST

Freedom, joy, a jar of harmony.
Would you believe
Santa found them all in aisle three?
Eggnog, Yule logs,
There are plenty in store,
Goodwill, understanding,
Good thing we ordered more!

Best wishes to you, our friends,
May your good times never end!

**MARKETS
Glen's**
FROM OUR FAMILY
TO YOURS

OPEN 24 HOURS

**JOY
TO
THE
WORLD!**

*You've made us feel so welcome in this community, and
for that and so much more, we thank you sincerely.
Merry Christmas!*

**Riverland Gear, Photo &
Drycleaning**

100-year old Frederic Inn remodeled and updated

by Shirley D. Schmoock
Special Writer

"We had to completely gut the building," said Lona Pawlanta, owner of the Frederic Inn. "It really was time."

Before Consumers Energy increased its service to the Frederic area, "we'd go through two, sometimes three days without full power. We had to do something."

And they did. Gene and Lona Pawlanta installed new back-up power, put in a new septic field, and had the electrical service rewired. While everything was more or less torn up, they had the floor relayed, paneled the walls and carpeted the entire building. Then, came the new front, roof, windows, and heating system. Gene and son, Ken Pawlanta, have done much of the work.

The 100-year old building, however, was never quite lifted from its ancient moorings. Not that the attempt wasn't made.

"We couldn't move it off its foundations," said Gene Pawlanta, chief cook and owner of one of the snow-

mobile world's favorite trail stops.

"We didn't want to harm the physical integrity of the building. So, we worked around it."

The Frederic Inn, while experiencing many lives in the past, has still been long known for its good food. It's also snowmobile friendly, as visitors can park everywhere. The town is a snowmobile paradise in winter, and the crossroads of Old 27 and County Road 612 afford a wide place for visitors to park, eat, and repair what needs fixing.

"We bought the Frederic Inn when it was covered with red, white and blue neon lights," said Lona, showing the once-glowing restaurant/bar in an old photo. She and Gene purchased it in 1982, "but we could never keep all of those lights on. Something was always going out. And, it never was a real hotel either," she continued, "but there were rooms for rent upstairs — probably by the night or hour back then."

Then, lighting struck the Frederic Inn in August of 1997.

"That was when we decided to go through the building and do it right,"

said Ms. Pawlanta.

There are currently two apartments above the Inn for rent, but nothing of the "room for rent" days remain. The newly-restored restaurant seats 100 and the lounge area, 40. The menu is traditional home style with an emphasis on their famous burritos and prime rib weekend specials.



FREDERIC INN — Lona and Gene Pawlanta, above, operators of The Frederic Inn, recently completed a complete remodeling of the 100-year old Frederic landmark. Photo by Shirley Schmoock.

State sets transit funding for Crawford's next year

The Crawford County Transportation Authority is due to receive \$404,590 in state funding for the 1997-98 fiscal year, according to an announcement from Gov. John Engler.

The funding for Crawford is about the same as last year, according to Dave Frederick, Authority director.

He said state and federal funding combined is expected to make up about 60 percent of the Crawford

authority's budget for the next year, with about \$250,000 coming from county wide millage, and the balance from user fees. The county tax levy is three-quarters of a mill.

Frederick said federal funding for next year has not yet been revealed, but he expects it to be about \$70,000.

He said the state funding is "based on eligible expenditures" and may be reconciled later in the year, depending upon overall spending by the 70 local bus transit agencies

which share in the state funding.

Gov. Engler said the total state funding of \$162 million in state operating assistance funding is a 35 percent increase over last year, but cautioned that the increase comes from an accumulated surplus from previous years and the new levels may not be sustained in the future.

State money for local bus operating assistance comes from up to 10 percent of gas taxes and registration fees the state collects, as well as sales tax collected on automotive-related products.

Compared with Crawford's

\$404,590, here's a list of how some other Northern Michigan county bus programs are being reimbursed:

Roscommon \$665,378, Otsego \$398,518, Kalkaska \$271,050, Ogemaw \$142,740, Gladwin \$484,912, Clare \$344,982, Iosco \$135,954.

Flint and Ann Arbor systems will get about \$7 million in grants, Lansing \$6.8 million, and Grand Rapids about \$6 million.

More than half the total state grants — almost \$100 million — is headed for the metro area in Southeastern Michigan.



NEW TAGS — The Secretary of State's office has started issuing a new license plate tab that incorporates the month and year of expiration numerically onto one tab. A license plate that expires on the owner's January birthday in 1999 will be shown on the tab as 01-99. In addition to being more convenient, the tab will help deter theft by including the license plate number it is assigned to.

Secretary of State changes license plate tabs

Secretary of State Candice S. Miller announced that motorists purchasing or renewing vehicle registrations this month may find a noticeable change in the license plate tabs they receive.

"We are applying technology to every phase of our operation, including the routine process of issuing tabs for license plates," Secretary Miller said today. "We have begun to phase-in a new license plate tab that is designed to deter theft, offer customers added convenience and bring new efficiencies to the Department of State." Among the advantages of the new tabs are:

- Deters theft of tabs by printing the license plate number of the vehicle for which the tab has been issued on the tab.

- Eliminates the need for two separate tabs by combining the month and year of expiration onto one tab that is slightly larger in size.

- Eliminates need for cumbersome inventory because tabs are now individualized and printed at the branch office on laser printers.

"The most important advantage of this new process is that every tab has the license plate number to which it has been assigned, printed on the tab," Secretary Miller explained. "Printing the license plate number on will have the tab will deter the theft of tabs since law enforcement officers will be able to quickly determine whether the tab was issued for the plate on which it is displayed."

Motorists who are issued the redesigned tab for their license plate

registrations will notice that the new tabs are slightly larger and include the month and year of expiration.

The month of expiration will be indicated numerically. For example, tabs expiring in January 1999 will read: 01-99. Vehicles registered by gross vehicle weight (GVW), such as large trucks, will be issued license plate tabs with the configuration reversed. For example, GVW tabs expiring in January 1999 will read: 99-01.

Tabs will also be a distinctive color each year with the 1999 tabs being bright orange.

Tabs should be placed on the upper right corner of the graphic license plates and on the lower right corner of the traditional Lake Superior Blue license plate.

With the exception of license plates, the department's goal is to eliminate all inventoried items from branch offices by printing all forms on laser printers.

Secretary Miller noted she expects motorists will also appreciate that each tab comes with two copies of the vehicle registration that has been downsized to fit more conveniently into a standard size wallet.

"In talking with customers around the state I have learned the forms we issue are not always practical for the customer," Secretary Miller said. "As long as we are making a change in how we issue tabs, we have taken the opportunity to 'right size' the form as an added convenience," Secretary Miller concluded.

Rep. Camp questions President's decision

Washington, DC— U.S. Rep. Dave Camp (R-MI) has questioned the President's announcement of an open-ended commitment of 8,500 American troops in Bosnia, breaking his earlier June 1998 deadline.

"The President has given the Americans in Bosnia and their loved ones a lump of coal for the holidays," said Camp. "The President should honor his word to the service men and women in Bosnia and bring our troops home."

American troops have now been in Bosnia for two years on a mission that was to have ended one year ago. As the original mission was set to expire, President Clinton decided to keep troops in the region for an additional 18 months. The President announced that the mission would be extended, and gave no indication if it would end when he leaves office in January 2001.

"I am deeply concerned about the decision to make this an open-ended mission," said Camp. "I don't want

to see a situation arise where America's main streets become lined with yellow ribbons, waiting for our troops to come home."

Camp also questioned the mission parameters, citing the Administration's inability to explain the U.S.' longterm goals in Bosnia.

"The President has yet to explain what the U.S. mission in Bosnia is going to achieve," said Camp. "Part of any successful military operation must have a successful exit strategy. That strategy has yet to be articulated by the Administration."

Water Requirement

Normal persons require 1 1/2 quarts of water every day. This may be obtained from the water content of fruits, vegetables, coffee, etc.—not just by drinking that much straight water daily.



BLIZZARD BUSTERS

Available in blade widths ranging from 61/2' to 10' with custom mounts designed to fit most 4x4's. Stop in and see why Western is the choice of the plowing professionals.

Four Mile Welding Sales & Service

• 348 2613

Coupon

LIQUIDATION SALE!

Over 10,000 Rolls Wallpaper & Borders

In Stock

\$10 Double Roll


Bring in this coupon & receive **Alpine** carpet

10% OFF sale price

1492 Marlette Rd., Waters, MI 49797


1-800-800-5791

Coupon



GRAND TRAVERSE

FOOT NOTES



by Ronald K. Olm, D.P.M.

Treatment for foot ulcers

An ulcer is defined as a break in the skin or membrane—a sore. Ulcers on the feet pose a special challenge for two reasons: one, the feet are especially vulnerable to poor circulation, which can make healing more difficult; and two, because people don't always pay attention to foot problems until they have reached severe stages. In addition to dressing the wound, treatment for foot ulcers may include antibiotics and rest. Foot supports may also be prescribed, to redistribute weight. Any ulcer on the feet or lower legs should be taken seriously, especially for people with diabetes. Failure to bring the damage under control can lead to gangrene (tissue death) and osteomyelitis (bone infection).

unless directed by a podiatrist. At GRAND TRAVERSE FOOT & ANKLE CENTER, P.C., we see the results of what happens when foot problems like ulcers are left untreated or are only self-treated. A better avenue of defense is to see a foot specialist. If your feet hurt and you don't have a podiatrist at this time, we would be happy to schedule an appointment for you at 1209 E. 8th Street, Traverse City, (922-9100 & 800-968-7440). Offices in Traverse City, also Kalkaska Memorial Health Center Monday & Wednesday afternoons and evenings. We wish you and your family a healthy, happy 1998.

PS. A daily self-examination of the feet can insure that problems will be spotted early—especially important for diabetics and the elderly.

Self-care may not be the best option for diabetics when it comes to their health,

DAVENPORT COLLEGE

Gaylord Center

Winter Term Begins

January 12, 1998

CODE	CLASS	DAY
ACC 301	Intermediate Accounting I	Monday
MTH 302	Statistics I	Monday
MTH336	College Algebra	Monday
ACC325	Budgeting	Tuesday
FIN340	Corporate Finance	Tuesday
MGT348	Credits and Collections	Tuesday
MKT301	Principles of Marketing	Tuesday
ACC202	Principles of Accounting II	Wednesday
ACC342	Michigan Taxation (2.25)	Wednesday
CIS 151	Spreadsheets (2.25) begins 2/18	Wednesday
COM212	Speech	Wednesday
MGT306	Human Resource Mgt.	Wednesday
ACC402	Advanced Accounting II	Thursday
COM122	College Writing II	Thursday
ECO201	Macroeconomics	Thursday
MGT345	Purchasing & Materials Mgt.	Thursday

All classes are held at Gaylord High School from 6:00 - 9:25 pm

Call today

(517) 731-2966

Whether You're Just Starting
or Finishing Up. . .



Cartwright & Danewell has Christmas Gifts For Everyone on Your List

Visit our store and get reduced prices on select items from Woolrich, Eagle Eye, British Khaki and other delightful items for your holiday gift giving.

Cartwright & Danewell

M-72 West • Grayling

Grayling Family Dentistry

C. Thomas Riegle, D.D.S.

205 Meadows Drive, Grayling
348-4300

Complete Family Dentistry

NEW PATIENTS WELCOME

EMERGENCY CARE



"We practice dentistry with a heart"

Kirtland

CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

The Place to be on Saturday Nights!

The Kingston Trio
40th Anniversary Reunion tour
Sponsored by St. Helen Power Sports & MCACA
Saturday, January 24 • 8 pm

The Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra
A Valentine's Day Special Event
Sponsored by Sharp's Corner IGA - Higgins Lake & MCACA
Saturday, February 14 • 8 pm

The Four Freshmen
Sponsored by CellularOne, Northern Security Systems,
Land N' Lakes Realty & MCACA
Saturday, March 7 • 8 pm
Kirtland Ticket Office 517-275-6777

Hotel accommodations for all KCPA artists provided by
Quality Inn - West Branch. David Clouse - Manager.
For reservations call 1-800-228-5151
News Channel 7&4 Exclusive Television Sponsor

10775 NORTH ST. HELEN ROAD • ROSCOMMON, MI 48653

Early morning paper carriers call it quits

by Shirley D. Schmoock
Special Writer

For seven-days a week, 365 days each year, Phyllis and Willard Pfaff of Grayling, have delivered the Detroit papers to this area for 25 years.

That's, 25 years of getting up at 2 a.m., rain or shine, high winds or blowing snow. Well, it's finally over for two very special people.

"When we moved here in 1969," Phyllis said, "Willard was with the Liquor Control Commission and I wanted something to do while the kids were in school. I could deliver the Detroit News in the afternoon, and this didn't disrupt our family much at all."

"A few years later, the News became a morning paper, so I was up and on the road early. I was usually back from my morning route before they were on their way to school."

"When I retired from the state in October of 1988," Willard went on, "we both began doing it full time. We were delivering to the Grayling area and the National Guard Camp. We even had the whole county once, but we just couldn't do it all."

"And, have we been through some fierce winters," he said. "We had routes in Mancelona and Kalkaska, and the snow would be so high on the roads, you couldn't see. Sometimes, only one lane would be open, and we drove straight pick-ups then — no four-wheel-drives. Just always carried a shovel and dressed warm."

"The way to get through those winters," Phyllis picked up the thread of Willard's tale, "was to drive down the middle and run a few steps either way; not get off the road. There are places on Four-Mile Rd. that might be the worst when they're icy."

She spoke of the newspaper strike, "and the period when the News and Free Press started talking about merging companies. That lingered on what seemed like forever. This all brought about change for the company, the carriers and the readers."

And, the most memorable time in the 25 years?

"We've had a lot of them," Phyllis began. "But, the worst was

when some reporter for the Detroit News got off at the Hartwick Pines exit by mistake. He couldn't get back on there, of course, and he had to go all the way into town. Lie wrote a nasty piece about Grayling, and we got all the calls when that paper came out. There was one man downtown who turned his boxes toward the wall so we couldn't leave the papers. We were somehow blamed for what that reporter wrote."

The Pfaffs have a lot of retirement plans, beginning with learning how to stay asleep after 2 a.m.

"We were both raised to work," Phyllis said, "so now maybe we'll get some work done around here for once. We want to finish the house, do some cross country skiing, and Willard wants to be the one to say 'cut off my paper for a month — we're going on vacation.'" The

matching his and hers red Blazers in their garage ought to get them anywhere they'd want to go.

The Pfaffs built their spacious home on the edge of Grayling in 1975. They've adopted a beautiful assortment of stray dogs, and "with the kids gone and married, they're our family."

People had abandoned these dogs or dropped them off, left them to die in the snow. The Pfaffs are a compassionate couple who seem able to find space in their busy lives for those less fortunate, especially animals.

"And when we get more time," Willard said "we'll take them to our farm to run. We have about 160 acres near Roscommon. We bought into the family's farm and are raising deer, I think. The Kirtland College area was open range once, and because we put in grain and horse

hay, our deer herd grows and grows."

Willard was born in Comins, north of Mio, and Phyllis was raised on the "hobby farm" of which they speak. Daughter Lori is now a mail carrier "and probably got the job because she learned so much about the county from delivering papers with us," Phyllis laughed. Lori is married to Curt Hanson. Their son, Todd, works for the Herald Times in Gaylord. He's married to Cindy Bellenger. Both families live in Grayling.

The new carriers are Mike and Mary Everson of Grayling.

An Open House for "anyone who has been a Detroit News or Detroit Free Press customer" is planned for the Pfaffs on Sunday, Jan. 4 at the American Legion Hall in Grayling and will be from noon to 4 p.m. Well-wishers are welcome.



CARRIERS RETIRE — Longtime morning newspaper carriers Phyllis and Willard Pfaff have decided to call it quits after delivering The Detroit News and Free Press for 25 years. Plans call for working around the house and travel. Photo by Shirley Schmoock.

Card of Thanks

We would just like to say thank you to all the family and friends who helped us celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary. A special thanks to our daughters and our grandsons for putting the party on, and thanks to all the people who helped them. We love you all.

I am glad that all the special people in our life got to share the last bottle of grandpa's wine with us. It just made it all the more special.

We also had a special guest — thanks for taking time to stop over; we really appreciate it. Thanks again to all our family and friends.

Terri and Ed Papendick

AVALANCHE

For Your Local Sports Action

Card of thanks

On Oct. 17, 1997, our daughter, Ashley Morgan, was diagnosed with Hodgkins lymphoma. Upon our return from the Mott's Childrens Hospital, we were astounded by the support we received from the local community. We would like to take this opportunity to thank some very special people:

Robin Cox & Tammy Gabriel
Frederic Volunteer Fire Dept.
Frederic Elementary & Mr. Nunn
Members of St. Johns Lutheran Church

Grayling Masonic Temple
Charlie Fick
Dr. Bersted of Grayling Mercy Hospital Emergency Room

Although it hasn't been easy, your support and well wishes have made our battle against cancer a little more bearable.

Our Heartfelt Thanks,
Eric & Paula Waite

SHARE volunteers distribute food orders

Volunteers from the Grayling Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints had to move out of doors to distribute food under the SHARE program for December.

The local program is sponsored by the Christian Help Center of Grayling. Team leader is Ilah Williams.

SHARE in Grayling every month distributes supplemental food packages.

"We have 16 volunteers doing the work of distribution for the people," said Coordinator Williams.

"Normally they are inside, but due to redoing the floors (of the church building), we are not allowed inside. Being it is so cold

outside, we think they are doing a fine job."

The program is open to the entire community, providing recipients put in volunteer time.

January pickup will be Jan. 23, and sign up will be Jan. 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Volunteers included Marion Mapes, Florance Witherell, Nancy Wakeford, Gary Kirkpatrick, Fritz Williams, Ben Dierolf, John Szkolnicki, Joanne Drumb, Stella Johnson, Terry Johnson, Barb Johnson, Pat Kennedy, Betty Mead, Connie Argue, Marilyn Perley and Delores Hall.

Further information is available at 348-8438.



SHARE PROGRAM — The December SHARE program moved out of doors at the parking lot of the Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints last week, because of repair work inside the building. Braving the cold were SHARE program coordinator Ilah Williams (front, seated), and Connie Argue (behind her), distributing groceries to these three customers. Photo by Linda Gohnick.

ACE Holiday Hours:
Open 8 am - 4 pm X-mas Eve
Closed X-mas Day

HURRY WHILE SUPPLIES LAST DURING DECEMBER!

6 Pc. Combo Wrench Set
SAE or metric combo wrenches.
Drop-forged steel. 25774, 25775
ACE BRAND \$8.88

3/8" Cordless Drive-R-Drill®
7.2 volt, flexi-charge interchangeable battery system. 2 speed, reversible. 300/600 rpm. 2025120
SKIL \$29.99

McLean's Hardware
209 S. James Street • Grayling • 348-2931
Mon. - Sat. 8 am to 5:30 pm • Sun. 9 am to 2 pm

SALE -- 40% OFF THESE ITEMS

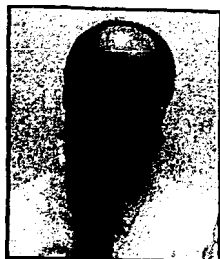
- ALL TYPES OF CB RADIOS • HANDHELD SCANNERS
- PROGRAMMABLE POLICE & FIRE SCANNERS
- FAMILY WALKIE-TALKIES • MOTOROLA PAGERS
- MARINE RADIOS • RADAR DETECTORS • WEATHER ALERT RADIOS

GREAT GIFT IDEAS!

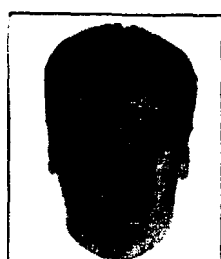
Cooley Communications
Two-way Radios and Sales/Service
1155 I-75 Business Loop S. • Grayling
(517) 348-6350 • FAX (517) 348-6350

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

And Many Thanks To All
Our Valued Customers



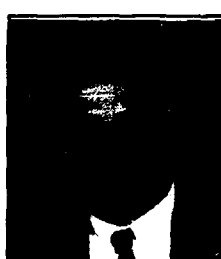
BRAD SCHEER
President



RICK LONGENDYKE
General Manager



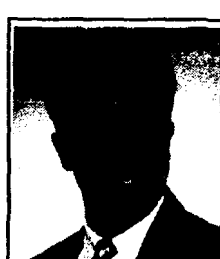
BILL HART
Used Car Manager
Sales Representative



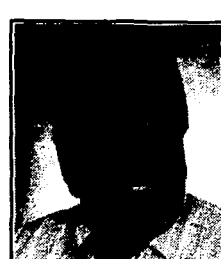
TIM HART
Sales Representative



LAURIE SCHEER-KREY
Sales Representative



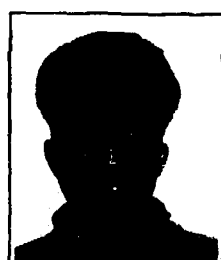
MIKE FORTINO
Sales Representative



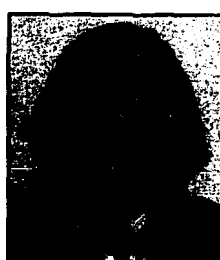
WAYNE METZGER
Sales Representative



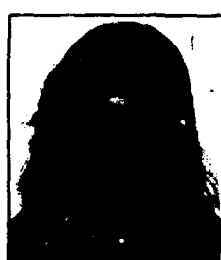
MIKE O'CONNOR
Sales Representative



LYNNE ELSNER
Office Manager



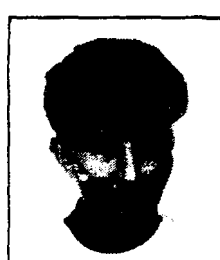
SHIRLEY WELKE
Cashier



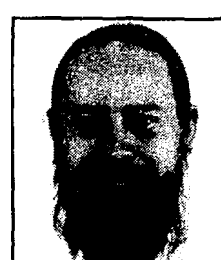
DEB HANNUM
Cashier



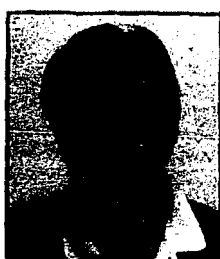
KIMBERLY CURTIS
Computer Operator



CAROL LaMOTTE
Warranty Clerk



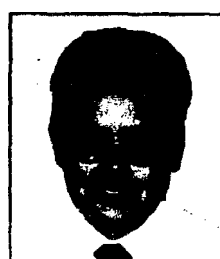
DAVE FAILING
Parts Manager



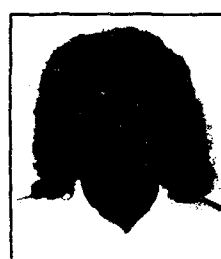
JAN THAYER
Parts Counter Person



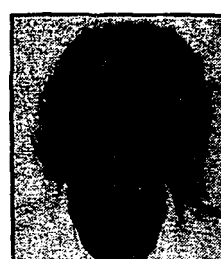
CHAD NOFFSINGER
Parts Counter Person



DAVE PETRIE
Service Manager



ENDA BENDIG
Service Adviser



SHERRY WILLIAMS
Service Adviser



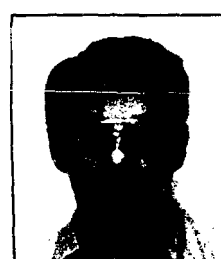
HOWARD BAKER
Heavy Technician



MARK PEGOUSKIE
Heavy Technician



RICK WYSKIEL
Heavy Technician



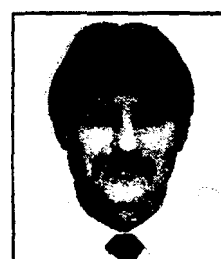
JOHN BEATTY
Heavy Technician



JOE LEE
Quick Service



DAVE CABLE
Quick Service



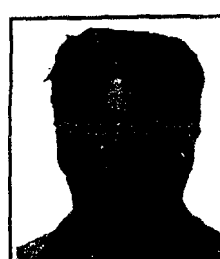
JEFF SHARP
Body Shop Manager



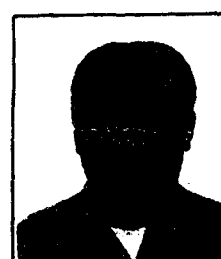
MARK EASTERLE
Auto Body Paint Technician



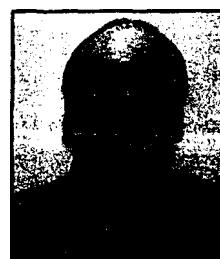
DAVE HARDEN
Auto Body Paint Technician



KURT FRITCHER
Heavy Body Technician



LARRY LINDBERT
Heavy Body Technician



EUGENE CHANDLER
Heavy Body Technician



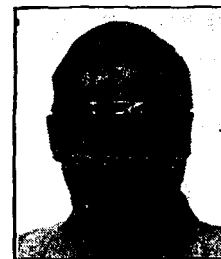
CHRIS HOYT
Body Shop Helper



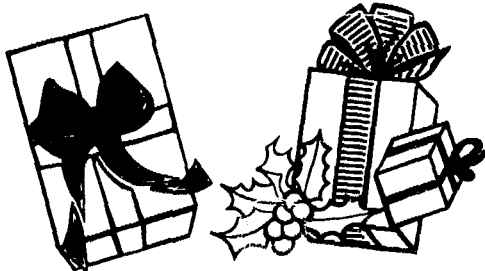
FRED HINKLE
Auto Reconditioning Manager



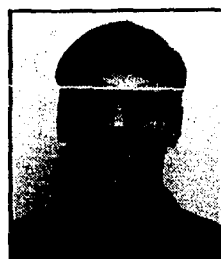
DANA BECKWITH
Auto Reconditioner



JOHN NOWLIN
Auto Reconditioner



SCOTT RITTER
Auto Reconditioner



SCOTT LONGENDYKE
Porter



SCHEER MOTORS



US-27 NORTH • GRAYLING • 517-348-5451 • 1-800-968-8848

Merry Christmas

In This Holy Season

May you and your family be blessed with the true spirit of Christmas.



*Flowers
by
Josie*



From Our Family To Yours

Our sincere best wishes for a sparkling holiday season. Thank you for giving us an extra reason to celebrate!

J. Dap Co.

118 Michigan Ave.
Grayling, MI



*From our families to your families
we wish you a blessed and
Merry Christmas and
a great year in 1998.*

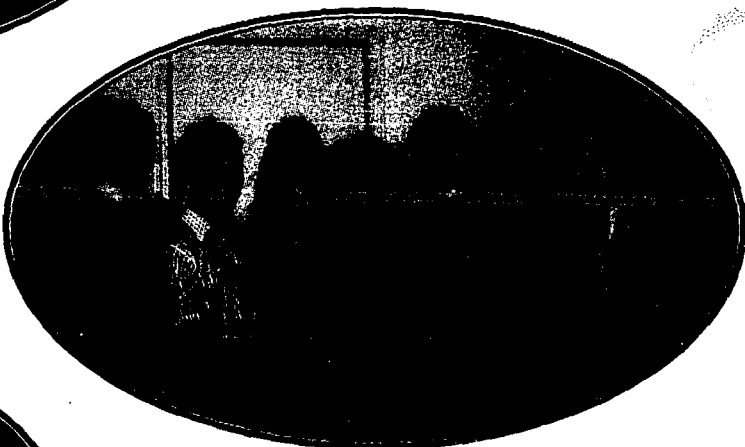


CORNELL REAL ESTATE

Back: Laurie Jamison,
Kevin Jamison, Jayson Welser,
Jim Vanderlaan, Bill Krause, Steve Green,
Fred Shippy, Duane LaMotte
Front: Curly LaMotte, Michelle Phillips,
Margaret Chappell & Diann Murphy

CORNELL INSURANCE AGENCY

George Stancil, Ron Thomson, Annette
Metzer, Doronda Klee, Jill Rutter, Linda
Northrop, Paul Thomson



CORNELL REAL ESTATE



MYERS LAND SURVEY

Back: Doug Boyd, Eric Brand
Front: Marvin & Rosalie Myers



Cornell Agency, Inc. Insurance



*We are so proud to be a part of this great
community. Thank you for all of the good
business you favored us with in 1997.*

*From all your friends
at the Cornell Building*



*Hope Your
Season
Is Crafted
With Joy!*

*To all our valued
customers, we extend
our heartfelt thanks
and sincere best
wishes for a
fun-filled Noel.*

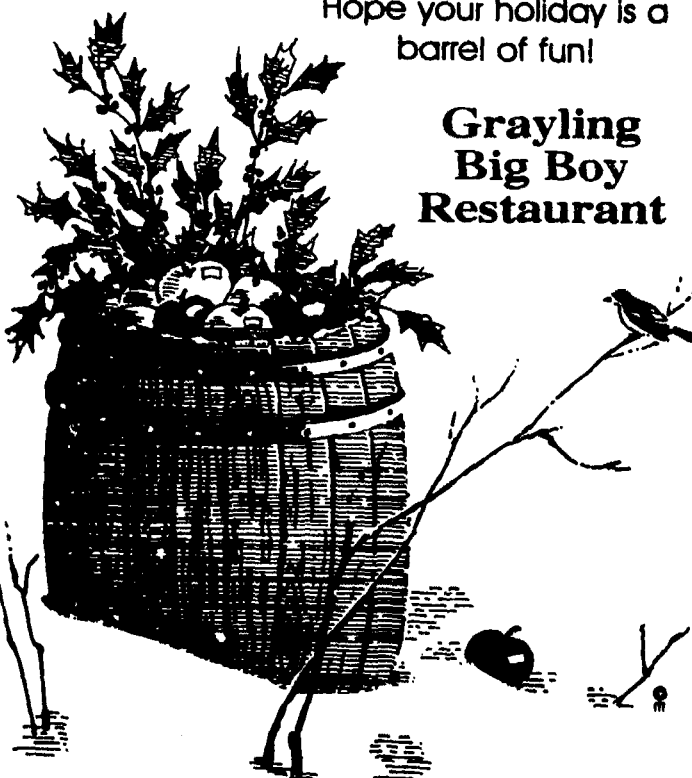
**Mary's Corner
Book Swap
& Lady Slipper**

203 Michigan Ave.
348-4731

Christmas Greetings

Hope your holiday is a barrel of fun!

**Grayling
Big Boy
Restaurant**





NOTES NORTHERN

INSIDE:
Sports

Section B - Crawford County Avalanche

Jane P.
 David D.
 Sally G.
 Mark A.
 Brian S.
 Heri M.
 Annie G.
 Beth R.
 Tom F.
 Mary N.
 Greg C.
 Lori M.
 John U.
 Joe S.
 Sarah E.
 Judy H.
 Pam K.
 Romeo A.
 Paul G.
 Susan S.
 Ken C.
 Ron H.
 Dana B.
 Rick P.
 Chris B.
 Mike S.
 Marcy U.
 Gary M.
 Julie B.
 Bill D.
 Dale W.
 Teri N.
 Jim H.
 Dick N.
 Jeff O.
 Carol D.
 Deb U.
 Dale W.
 Liz B.
 Nancy J.
 Tim E.
 Aaron A.
 Will T.
 Rob H.
 Kathy N.
 Ruth J.
 Hugh R.
 Linda L.
 Keri D.
 Troy A.
 Duncan T.
 Daryl H.
 Darla F.
 Irene K.
 Gena S.
 Val W.
 Sam E.
 Ted P.
 Lisa C.

The items featured on this page were written by students at Grayling Elementary and AuSable Primary schools.

Dear Santa,
I want a pretend toy sun that shines,
a real dog that is brown and I'll call
her peaches.
Gwen Mueller

I hear Santa on Christmas night
I smell cookies when mom
bakes them at night
I see Santa in my head at
night
by Chris Felver

Dear Santa,
I want a Madeline and a bunny and I want a horse and
a new sled. And I want a new vacation with my family.
Grace Collins

Dear Santa,
I want a three wheeler and a Tonka Truck.
I love you, Santa.
Frankie McLeod

WINTER IS...
COLD PEOPLE GLIDING ACROSS THE ICE.
LITTLE CHILDREN PLAYING IN THE SNOW.
AND FREEZING CHILDREN DRINKING HOT
CHOCOLATE.
BY JESSICA GOLNICK

Dear Santa
Exercise Barbie. she's tall as us. A
headphone for me. I want a new
computer. a Barbie Ninendo.
I will give you a christmas present!
Kristy Felver

What Christmas Means to Me:

It means love, happiness,
and Jesus' birthday
Love
Love is a very special thing.
You hold people tight in
your arms and cuddle with
them at night.
Happiness
Happiness is a joyful thing.
The thing you get on
Christmas Day.
Jesus' birthday
Jesus' birthday is some-
thing people celebrate
every year on Christmas
Day.
by Stacie Dent

Winter is...
cool kids snowboarding down hill
on Christmas Eve.
crazy kids giving them selves
white washes in the snow.
and awesome kids making snow
forts on a hill.
by Ryan Feldhauser

Dashing through the snow,
I saw Rudolph go,
And how his nose did glow,
when he was on his way-
Ho. Ho. Ho. Ho!
by Ashley Marculewicz

I hear my sister asking to open
presents at 6:00 Christmas
morning.
I smell breakfast.
I see beautiful lights and
Santa Claus
by Amanda Moran

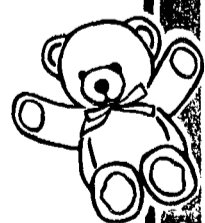
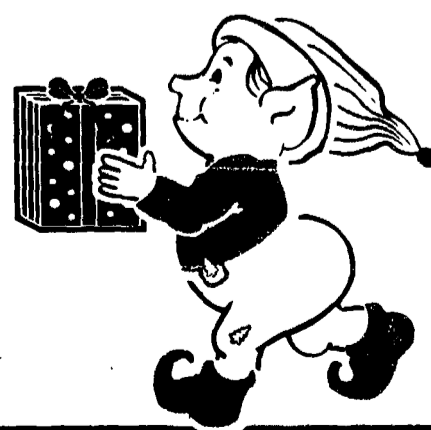
Santa is coming on Christmas Eve,
Coming with his reindeer!
Thanks St. Nick!!
by Jesse Hampton

I hear bells ringing and paper
wrapping.
I smell turkey in the oven.
I see snow on the ground and
a pretty sparkling tree.
I see lots of presents and many
toys under the tree
by Tiffany McCellan

Christmas
Cheerful
Holly
Reindeer
Includes love
Santa
Tears are no longer
Merry Christmas
Awesome
Santa
by Sean Allen Walsh

Christmas Eve
Once upon a time in the year 1993 Santa took a
sleigh ride around the world looking for a little
boy or girl to go with him to pass out toys on the
night of Christmas Eve. When he got to Detroit he
knew at once who would be his elf, me, Rachel
Stacey Sells. After he found my house he came to
the door and said, "Yes, why?" Jolly Old Santa
said, "I chose her to be one of my elves." So after
my mom said "O.K.", up, up we went even my
mom. When we got to the North Pole he said,
"Let's make more toys." So when we got inside
the other elves got us some hot chocolate and
some funny looking clothes that they call elf
clothes. We worked all day long and at 10:00 we
went around the world. Then, when he came to
Detroit we got off and gave the reindeer some
carrots and gave Santa some Christmas lights and
presents. He thanked us. With a wink he was
gone. Then I turned to my mom and at the same
time we smiled.
by Rachel Sells

To: Mom
You are nice.
You don't like mice.
You are neat and clean.
Your eyes are very green.
From: SinterKlaas
Mark McDaniel



Merry Christmas


Everyone at

Chemical Bank


Wishes You

a Peaceful

and Joyous Holiday.



CHEMICAL BANK
The Bank for Everybody.



In the true spirit of the Christmas season, may goodness and peace prevail for all on this precious Earth.

*** Holiday Inn**



**HAPPY ▲ HOLIDAYS
HAPPY ▲ HOLIDAYS
HAPPY ▲ HOLIDAYS
HAPPY ▲ HOLIDAYS
HAPPY ▲ HOLIDAYS**

**From All Of Us
at
Upper Lakes Tire**

*God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay;
Remember Christ our Savior,
Was born on Christmas Day.*

— Carol

On this most holy occasion, we'd like to join you and your family in praying for worldwide peace and harmony amongst all God's creatures.

May the light of His love brighten your home and warm your heart this holiday season.

Merry Christmas!

**The Sisters of Mercy
and staff at
Mercy Health Services North**




**SEASON'S
JOY TO
ONE
AND ALL!**

Hope your Christmas is all fixed up with love, laughter and happiness. We're proud to say our business is built on the support and trust of our loyal customers. Thanks, friends.

**DuBOIS
LUMBER**

Varsity boys basketball looking good

Dave Golnick
Student Writer

The boys Varsity basketball team won a huge victory against the defending conference champions, Gladwin 95-86, but also lost an overtime heart-breaker to another top team, Tawas, 84-83.

The first of these games featured Grayling against Gladwin. The first quarter went back and forth, with solid defensive play and good offensive transition. The Vikings put pressure on the Gladwin guards by enforcing the half-court trap well, and were able to turn Gladwin turnovers into quick points.

In the second quarter the Vikings refused to give up defensively, putting even more pressure on Gladwin at half-court. The Grayling offense finally settled in during the second quarter, helping to give Grayling some good offensive possessions. With Gladwin on their heels the Vikings charged, led by Eli Tobin, for the entire quarter, capitalizing on many fast-breaks and easy shots.

The third quarter featured the intensity of the Gladwin team and their will to win as they answered the Grayling charge with a counter attack of their own. Furious action and a very fast paced quarter resulted in a Gladwin lead going into the fourth quarter.

During the fourth quarter, Grayling elevated its play to a level

not yet seen by Viking fans. Excellent defense led to quick baskets and loads of frustration for Gladwin, as they could not crack the Grayling full-court press. As the battle swung back and forth, it became apparent that the well-conditioned Vikings would win this game by sheer fatigue of the Gladwin players. This proved to be true as Grayling clinched a 95-86 victory over the conference champions.

Team Captain Nate Hinkle had this to say about the victory:

"Coming into the Gladwin game, I knew they were favored to win the conference again. I also knew that we would be playing against the best two guards in the conference as well. I knew if we were determined to pick up our game, we could prove the critics wrong, which we did when we pulled off the victory."

The second game, against the Tawas Braves, ended in defeat for the Vikings, who were left licking their wounds after an 84-83 loss.

After a slow first half consisting of a chessmatch offensive showdown, the Vikings came out ready to play in the second half.

Grayling showed defensive spark at the end of the third quarter, which would carry on into the fourth quarter, and held on to a small 59-54 lead.

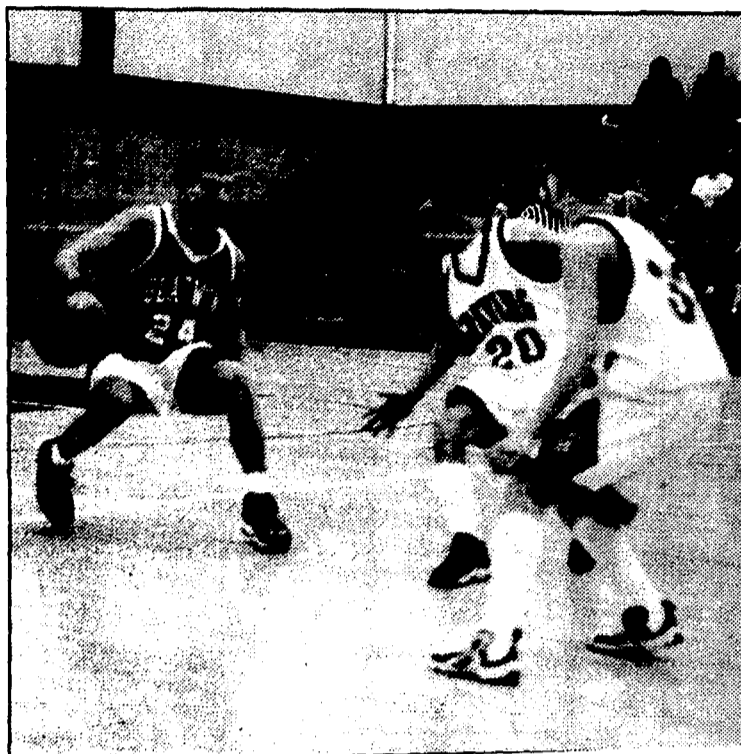
The fourth quarter was action packed, and with excitement mounting, Grayling tied the game with a late quarter flood of offense to send

it into overtime.

In overtime the Vikings fell behind early, but continued to hold on, and with another late offensive charge they looked as if they might send the game into a second overtime. But with five seconds remaining and Grayling inbound the ball

under the Tawas basket, the ball was tipped to Eli Tobin, who received the ball beyond the three point line and off balance, and his shot missed its mark. The final score was Tawas 84, Grayling 83.

The varsity's next contest was at home against Kalkaska on Dec. 22.



GLADWIN TRAPPED — The half-court trap, which serves the Viking Varsity squad well, was executed perfectly against Gladwin by Travis Parkinson (20) and Eli Tobin (10), and helped Grayling to win. Photo by David Golnick.



FUTURE VIKES — During a recent Grayling high basketball home game, the third and fourth graders participating in the Grayling Recreation Authority basketball program put on a half-time game against each other. Photo by David Golnick.

8th grade football sign-up

by Dave Golnick
Student Writer

For all 8th graders interested in playing freshman football next year, there will be a sign-up and meeting at the middle school on Thursday, Jan. 8, during Viking Time in the gymnasium.

Coach Rodney Patterson and some of this years Varsity football players will be at the meeting to answer questions and greet students.

All 8th graders interested in playing freshman football next year need to attend the meeting.

If parents have any questions or concerns about the freshman football program, they can contact Coach Patterson at the High School (348-7641) during school hours.

Men's league

The Grayling Men's Basketball League season will begin on Jan. 2, 1998, with the first game at 6 p.m. Information is available from Phil or Mike at 348-3654 or 348-3652.

**Orthodontics
for
Adults
and
Children**

**Grayling Family
Dentistry
C. Thomas Riegler, D.D.S.**

Our office uses the latest state-of-the-art, most effective combination of European and American Orthodontic techniques. In fact, with these methods, patients are completed in

15 MONTHS AVERAGE TREATMENT TIME!

Call (517) 348-4300 for an appointment

Dr. Riegler is a general dentist who also practices orthodontics.

BUY LIFE INSURANCE AND SAVE ON YOUR HOME AND CAR.

When you buy your life insurance from us through Auto-Owners Insurance, you'll receive special discounts on your home, mobile home or car insurance. We'll save you money. As an independent Auto-Owners agent, we take great interest in you - as well as your home and car. We are specialists in insuring people - and the things they own.



Jill Rutter & Paul Thomson

Auto-Owners Insurance
Life Home Car Business
The No Problem People
Cornell Agency, Inc. Insurance
PO Box 527, M-72 E. at I-75, Grayling
348-6761 • FAX (517) 348-5472

AVALANCHE
For
Your
Local
Sports
Action

TIPS ON SAFE SNOWMOBILING



- Always wear a helmet.
- Avoid snowmobiling in frigid weather. Don't travel alone in wilderness areas.
- Bring a first-aid kit, compass, map, matches, an aluminum foil type blanket, snacks, tool kit, rope and extra ignition key.
- Dress warmly. Avoid wearing loose clothing that can tangle in equipment.
- Don't drink alcohol before or while snowmobiling.
- Travel on approved trails. Be alert for fences, tree stumps and stretched wire that may be concealed by snow.

News 348-6811

New Year's Eve Smorgasbord

December 31, 1997 • 5 to 11 pm

* Carved Roast Prime Rib of Beef * Steamed Crab Legs * Breaded Shrimp * Stuffed Sole with Crab Meat * Pork Cutlet with Jack Daniels * Chicken Fettuccini * Red Skin Potatoes with Rosemary * Medley of Zucchini, Yellow Squash & Carrots.

Also includes our Fresh Fruit and Cheese Tray, Raw Vegetables and Dip, Smoked Whitefish, Peel-and-Eat Shrimp, and our everlasting Soup and Salad Bar.

**\$15⁹⁵ per person
Seniors \$12⁹⁵
12 and under \$10⁹⁵**

New Year's Day Brunch

January 1, 1998 • 10 am to 3 pm

Eggs and Omelettes cooked to order * Carved Baked Ham and Roast Beef * Waffle table with Toppings * Sweet and Sour Pork * Shrimp Fettuccini with Broccoli * Marinated Breast of Chicken * Rice Pilaf * Cauliflower with Cheese Sauce * Breakfast Tortillas.

Also includes our Gourmet Bar with Raw Vegetables and Dip, Fresh Fruit, assorted Cheese & Crackers and an array of Fresh Baked breads and Dessert Table.

**• \$9⁹⁵ per person • Seniors \$8⁹⁵
• 12 and under \$7⁹⁵ •
• Gourmet Bar Only \$7⁹⁵**

CRAWFORD STATION

inside the Holiday Inn • 2650 S. I-75 Business Loop
Grayling, MI 49738
(517) 348-7611 • (800) 292-9055

ENJOY!

AVALANCHE

Your Hometown
Newspaper

Call Today
For Your
Subscription

348-6811

Merry Christmas

TO OUR VALUED CUSTOMERS

WE'RE PLEASED AND PROUD TO SERVE FINE FOLK LIKE YOU, AND ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT. WISHING YOU ALL THE JOYS OF CHRISTMAS AND EVERY HAPPINESS IN THE YEAR AHEAD. NOEL!

Jim Drudge

SHOWTYME Collision

We make it worth the drive to Showtime Collision

Greetings of the Season

Here's hoping you enjoy the jolliest of times all through the holidays. Thanks for stopping by!

John, Cindy, Chris & Jeremy Jones

JP's Motor Mall

GLAD TIDINGS

We wish you bundles of joy this Yuletide.

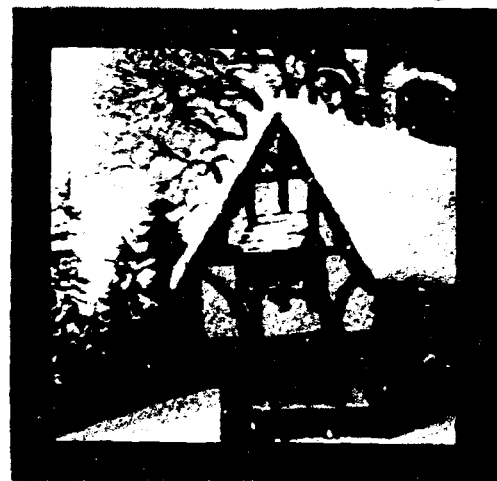
Grayling Post Office

Well seasoned wishes for a holiday filled with joy. It has been our great privilege to know and serve you.



Jack Millikin, Inc.

Seasons Blessings




May the spirit of Christmas be always at your door, just as you are always welcome at ours.

Happy Holidays!

Lanny Mel Dennis Lynn Lana

DOORWAYS OF THE NORTH Call 348-5426
2306 S. Industrial Park Grayling




REJOICE!

As we enter into this glorious season, our spirits are uplifted by warm thoughts of the many good people we've come to know. We're privileged to have this opportunity to wish you all a very joyous and happy holiday.

John, Kathy & Family

Superior Janitorial Service



With the help of the community, NCACU makes Christmas at Meadows of Grayling Health Care Center brighter!

The employees at North Central Area Credit Union (NCACU) in Grayling were hoping to brighten the holidays for the residents of Meadows Health Care Center, and they did just that! Meadows Health Care is a 120-bed facility offering basic and skilled nursing services.

The credit union staff contacted their area Select Employer Groups, went to their members and the Grayling community to reach their goal of giving every Meadows resident a Christmas gift. "Once again the Grayling community has more than met the challenge. The community support shown last year to Kenquest House, and the Meadows this year, is overwhelming. We are extremely grateful," said Mary Koliba, marketing director.

Joyce Miller, branch manager, and her staff would like to thank the community for their support and generous donation of gifts. Our wish to the Grayling community...that everyone enjoy a wonderful holiday season and happy new year.

NORTH CENTRAL AREA CREDIT UNION

JV Boys Basketball battle new conference

by Dave Golnick
Student Writer

Taking a 1-1 record into the second week of the season, the Grayling High School Jayvee boys basketball team maintained the same pace during its second week.

The Vikes opened the season with a 54-40 win over Roscommon, then followed with a loss to Ogemaw Heights.

Gladwin and Tawas provided the opposition last week, and the result was repeated — one loss, one win.

The Vikings hosted the Gladwin Flying G's in the third game of the season, hoping to beat one of the toughest teams in the conference.

The first half of the game went back and forth, with both teams cap-

italizing on turnovers and fast breaks. A last minute Grayling run put them up 35-30 going into half-time.

The second half was not much different than the first, with both teams exchanging leads throughout the third and fourth quarters. The game was in the Vikings' hands until the very end, when they found themselves down by three with no way to tie the game. The final score was Gladwin 64 and Grayling 61.

The Tawas Braves were the next opponent on Grayling's schedule. Tawas was another good team in the conference, and were expected to possibly win the conference.

The first quarter was slow, with many missed shots and had passes

hampering any chance at an offensive show. The defenses were tight and unrelenting, but sloppy play by both sides continued to the low 9-6 Tawas lead at the end of the first.

In the second quarter Grayling picked up the pace and capitalized on many Tawas errors, and going into the locker room at half-time they led the Braves

23-18. During the third quarter Grayling built up a good lead, and it looked as if they would undoubtedly pull away from Tawas and come up with a victory. But just as fast as the lead was built it was lost, and at the end of the third quarter the score was in the favor of the Braves 40-35.

The fourth quarter was close until

the end because of many Grayling turnovers. With no time left on the clock, Grayling leading 57-54, one of the Braves was fouled at the three point arc and got three shots to tie or win the game for Tawas. Luckily for Grayling he missed all but one of the shots. Coach Butch Hayes had this to say about his team's performance:

"In the Gladwin game we put out a good effort. The game was a game of runs, in which they would get a lead and then we would get a lead. We had a good opportunity at the end to win or send the game to overtime, but we failed. The game, however, was an overall good effort."

The JV's next game was at home against Kalkaska on Monday, Dec. 22.

Alumni game

The Grayling Boys Basketball Spirit Club will sponsor the second annual Alumni Game on Saturday, Dec. 27. Any former Grayling High School player is encouraged to play in the game. Players should arrive at the gym by 6:30 p.m. Game time is set for 7 p.m. Slam dunk and three-point shot contests will be featured at halftime.



FIND IT FAST IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!

Why drive all over town searching for a good deal, when you can find hundreds of them weekly in the classified section.



Crawford County Avalanche
348-6811

NOTICE

BE ON THE ALERT!
For Snowplowing Crews and Equipment.

We Are On The Internet Now!!

• Local News • Business Directory • Classifieds • Local Weather and much more!
www.townnews.com/avalanche/



**NORTHERN MICHIGAN
HEALTH SERVICES**

GRAYLING PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

Is open to serve individual and family health care needs.

DENIS A. GENNETTE, PA-C
KAUSAR SULEMAN, M.D.

Monday - Friday • 8 am - 5 pm
For appointment, call (517) 348-4110

Keyport Clinic Building
308 E. Michigan Ave., Grayling, Michigan 49738
• Medicaid Welcomed • Accept Medicare Assignment
Sliding fee discount program available



GOING UPSTRONG — Dave Hawkins (10) takes the shot while Brad Wilson (44) moves in for the rebound as the Vikings J.V.s lost to Gladwin 61-64. Photo by David Golnick.

BOWLING LEAGUE



POOL LEAGUE

Men's Pool League

Frederic Inn.....	112-68
Red Barn.....	102-78
Plaza.....	98-82
Holiday Inn.....	98-82
Weyerhaeuser*.....	89-91
Frogies*.....	83-97
Tadpoles.....	81-99
Breakers.....	57-123
Won all games.....	Roger and Terry of Holiday Inn.
8 ball run.....	John and Bernie of Plaza, Mike of Red Barn and Tim of Tadpoles.
7 ball run.....	Scott of Tadpoles and Rich of Weyerhaeuser*.

We Care!

The Meadows of Grayling

- **OFFERING:**
7 day a week admissions
- **PROVIDING**
PT, OT, ST, IV, Respiratory therapy
- **COMMITMENT:**
Quality care provided by dedicated, caring staff of health professionals
- **ACCEPTING:**
Medicare, Medicaid, VA, Hospice & Private Care Patients



331 Meadows Drive
Grayling, MI 49738
517-348-2801

Triangle League

Moshier Auto.....	6-2
Milltown Carpet.....	5-3
Jackson Trio.....	4-4
Barber Construction.....	4-4
Cal Schreiber Bldr.....	4-4
A Team.....	4-4
Airway Automation.....	3-5
C S I.....	2-6
High Game: R. Schreiber, 209; R. McIntyre, 203; R. Moshier, 201.	
High Series: R. Schreiber, 543; R. McIntyre, 509; R. Buskirk, 493.	

American Men's League

Auto Parts.....	35-21
McLean's Ace.....	34-22
Fenton's Auto.....	34-22
Burnside RV.....	27-29
Upper Lakes.....	27-29
Northwood Land.....	23-33
Stitches by Sue.....	23-33
Red Barn.....	21-35
High Game: R. Pyle, 268; D. Canfield, 224; T. Kotrash, 216.	
High Series: R. Pyle, T. Kotrash, 624; L. Davis, 602.	

Comedy League

Black Sheep.....	24-12
Clerk's.....	24-12
Spy's.....	23-13
Nutty Professors.....	22-14
Tin Cops.....	19-17
Space Jammers.....	12-24
Paul Bearers.....	11-25
Wild Natures.....	9-27
High Game: Male: M. Root, 125; Female: K. Davis, 126.	
High Series: Male: K. Fedak, 232; Female: K. Davis, 240.	
Most Pins over Average: Male: M. Root, 50; Female: K. Davis, 32.	
Most Pins over Series: Male: B. Jones, 3; Female: M. Mathey, 12.	

Cartoon League

Looney Tunes.....	28-8
Scooby Doo's.....	26-10
Ninja's.....	26-10
3 Stooges.....	15-21
Rug Rats.....	14-22
Goose Bumps.....	12-24
Aristocats.....	12-24
Flinstones.....	11-25
High Game: Male: P. Armstrong, 112; Female: M. McGuire, 119.	
High Series: Male: J. Dreasky, 206; Female: M. McGuire, 204.	
Most Pins over Average: Male: J. Pease, 35; Female: M. McGuire, 47.	
Most Pins over Series: Male: J. Armstrong, 3; Female: S. Wilkerson, 12.	

Senior Citizens League

Tees 'N' Such 'R' Us.....	39 1/2-24 1/2
Stevens Family Circle.....	35-29
Bucci's Pizza.....	34-30
Baynham Wood Products.....	33-31
Flowers by Josie.....	30-34
Totten's Body Shop.....	29 1/2-34 1/2
Cornell Realty.....	29-35
Sylvester's Sports.....	26-38
Men's High Game: A. Smith, 204; L. Essiambre, 184; A.J. Hall, 183.	
Men's High Series: A. Smith, 530; D. Germain, 523; L. Essiambre, 487.	
Women's High Game: J. Miller, 186; V. Johnston, 172; D. Mead, 168.	
Women's High Series: D. Mead, 475; D. Brantley, 441; P. Essiambre, 425.	

Recreation League

North Country R V.....	8-0
Peterson Saw Service.....	5-3
Mark 8.....	5-3
Glen's Market.....	5-3
Fun-N-Sun Rental.....	3-5
Cornell's.....	3-5
Mickey Perez CPA.....	2-6
Scheer Motors.....	1-7
High Game: G. Nielson, 214; B. Wheeler, 213; Dora Mead, 196.	
High Series: Dora Mead, 520; G. Nielson, 508; S. Sumner, 501.	

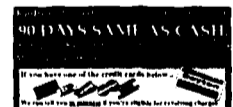
Pioneer League

Millikin's.....	38 1/2-21 1/2
Ginger's.....	35-25
Chemical Bank.....	32-24
Aunt Betty's.....	31 1/2-28 1/2
Custom Interior.....	31-39
Lady Slippers.....	28-32
Mercy Hospital.....	27 1/2-32 1/2
Avalanche.....	16 1/2-43 1/2
High Game: L. Fisher, 203; N. Glasslee, 202; K. Moshier, 192.	
High Series: N. Glasslee, 521; K. Moshier, 514; G. Nielson, 501.	

Action League

Men in Black.....	37-11
Lethal Weapons.....	35-13
Strike 2 Judgments.....	33-15
J.C.'s 1st Strikers.....	21-27
Natural Born Killers.....	19-29
Women in Black.....	18-30
Phantoms.....	17-31
Kung Fu Mania.....	12-36
High Game: Male: D. Wilhelm, 169; Female: C. Romain, 180.	
High Series: Male: D. Wilhelm, 492; Female: C. Romain, 460.	
Most Pins over Average: Male: D. Hutt, 49; Female: C. Romain, 49.	
Most Pins over Series: Male: J. Arwood, J. Hoesli, 77; Female: C. Romain, 67.	

Forecast: Cold Weather Drive Safe with Dayton Tires



Interurban® Radial Snow



- Two steel belts.
- Deep lugged tread design.
- Polyester cord body for smooth ride.
- Pinned for #13 studs.

Daytona Quadra® LTE



60,000 Mile Treadwear
40% - 180 Replacement Limited Warranty

Daytona® Radial Stag (A/T)



With a rugged shoulder right angle, a self-cleaning tread pattern, and a deep siping pattern, the Dayton Stag is a true all-weather tire. It's a tire that's built to last, and it's a tire that's built to perform. It's a tire that's built to keep you safe, and it's a tire that's built to keep you comfortable. It's a tire that's built to keep you happy, and it's a tire that's built to keep you healthy. It's a tire that's built to keep you alive, and it's a tire that's built to keep you thriving. It's a tire that's built to keep you... well, you get the idea.

Blizzak. The Ice Tire



EXCEPTIONAL TRACTION IN SNOW. Exclusive TRACPOINT sipes provide thousands of edges to help bite through snow, as well as to help improve traction on icy roads. Lateral edges (across the tire) provide excellent grip when accelerating and braking, while longitudinal edges (around the tire) help prevent sideways slippage.

Now Available -- Alignments • Shocks • Struts • Brakes



701 HURON, GRAYLING • 348-2887 • Mon. - Fri. 8 am to 5:30 pm • Sat. 8 am to 3 pm

1. Detroit vs. Tampa Bay
(Bonus game worth 5 points)

JANSEN
AGENCY & ASSOC., INC.
2370 S. I-75 Business Loop, Grayling
348-6711

Full line of insurance to serve you.

Hastings Mutual Insurance Company
We're only as good as our service.

2. Minnesota vs. N.Y. Giants
(Bonus game worth 2 points)

SCHEER MOTORS

U.S. 27 North, Grayling
517-348-5451

3. Jacksonville vs. Denver
(Bonus game worth 5 points)

SAWMILL BILLIARDS

Food & Spirits

Come In and Enjoy Food, Drink,
Pool, Darts & Watch Football Our
Big Screen TV.

104 Mich. Ave. • Uptown Grayling
348-4588

4. Miami vs. New England
(Bonus game worth 2 points)

ABEL AUTOPARTS

Open Mon - Fri 8 am
to 5:00 pm, Sat 8 am
to Noon, Variable
Weekend Hours

- New & used parts available
- Best prices in the North!
- We buy wrecked vehicles
- Late model repairables
- Country wide locator service available
- Lowest prices on new gas tanks and radiators

5. Marshall vs. Mississippi (Fri. Nite, 8 pm)
(Bonus game worth 5 points)

Try your luck, buy your
Lotto tickets here...

MARKETS Glen's



FROM OUR FAMILY
TO YOURS

6. S. Carolina St. vs. Southern
(Bonus game worth 2 points)

Join us in
the **Speak Easy**



Saloon for football

Football on the Big Screen Sundays & Mondays
Drink Specials Available

Holiday Inn

7. Arizona vs. New Mexico
(Bonus game worth 5 points)



William Dean, O.D.
Robert Aubry, O.D.
Family Vision Care

904 Mich. Ave. • Grayling • 517-348-3211 • 348-2911
EVENING APPOINTMENTS BY REQUEST

8. Notre Dame vs. LSU
(Bonus game worth 2 points)

Legion Lanes & Lounge

Join us and watch
the games on
our big screen TV

106 S. James Street
Grayling, MI 49738
348-7232

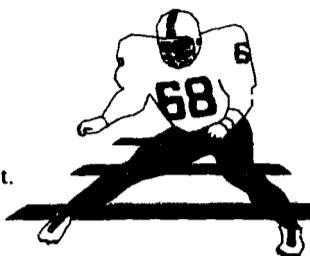
Football Contest

Ron Metzger was the winner of week #17, with 24 points. John Wireman, Rod Wade, Joe Thompson T.J. Rankin, Denyce Krolczyk and Joanna Cottenham followed with 23 correct, and 10 others followed with 22 correct. Of 188 entries this week, only 23 did not feel that Barry Sanders would reach the 2,000-yard mark, and, one person only got 7 correct out of a possible 26! Better luck next week.

Overall leaders through Week #17

Last week's winners:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Detroit (3 pts.) | 10. Tennessee |
| 2. Green Bay | 11. Arizona |
| 3. St. Louis | 12. Jacksonville |
| 4. Cincinnati | 13. Denver |
| 5. Tampa Bay | 14. Seattle |
| 6. Minnesota (3 pts.) | 15. Yes (3 pts.) |
| 7. Kansas City | 16. Youngstown St. |
| 8. N.Y. Giants | 17. Findlay |
| 9. Washington (3 pts.) | 18. Oregon |



- Joanne Thompson, 241
Donnie Forbes, 233
Nancy Gingerick, 232
Robert A. Gennrich, 231
Kim Schmidt, 230
Mark Hartman, 229
Rod Wade, 229
Rebecca Bond, 228
Christopher Callahan, 228
Julie Gates, 228

(print)

NAME

PHONE

ADDRESS

Signature

Week #18 for games played December 26 - 28

WINNER

ADVERTISER

Game 1		
Game 2		
Game 3		
Game 4		
Game 5		
Game 6		
Game 7		
Game 8		
Game 9		
Game 10		
Game 11		
Game 12		
Game 13		
Game 14		
Game 15		
Game 16		
Game 17		
Game 18		

Tiebreaker 1 (total points scored in game 1)
Tiebreaker 2 (total points scored in game 18)
Tiebreaker 3 (total points scored in game 9)

Avalanche Football Contest Official Rules

1. Contestants must list the advertiser in which each game is found. Entry blanks without advertisers listed will be invalid.
2. One entry per person a week will be accepted. Crawford Co. Avalanche employees are not eligible.
3. Completed entry blanks must be returned to the Avalanche no later than 5 p.m. Friday before each week's games. Mailed entries must be postmarked no later than 5 p.m. Friday. Mail to Avalanche, PO Box 490, Grayling, MI, 49738.
4. Entries must be on an official entry blank as printed in the Avalanche. No purchase necessary to enter. Entry forms are available at the Avalanche office.
5. Winners may claim their prizes at the Avalanche office between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays. Identification and a social security number must be presented when claiming a prize.

Weekly Prizes

- *Sports cap--Scheer Motors
- *Mystery gift--Sylvester's
- *\$10 gift certificate--Grayling Glen's Market
- *\$10 gift certificate--Abel Auto Parts
- *Lunch for 2 at Charlie's Country Corner - Fick & Sons
- *\$1 off one lunch - Sawmill
- *Free hat--McLean's Ace Hardware
- *One free lunch, a \$6.95 value--Grayling Holiday Inn
- *Free lube, oil and filter--Scott McNamara Ford-Mercury, Inc.
- *\$50 from the Crawford County Avalanche

Overall Prizes

- *Free lube, oil & filter--Scheer Motors
- *Mystery gift--Sylvester's
- *\$10 gift certificate--Grayling Glen's Market
- *Free lube, oil & filter--Don Nester
- *\$50 off any purchase--Abel Auto Parts
- *\$50 gift certificate--Comfort Center
- *Sunday brunch for two and swim room, a \$50 value--Grayling Holiday Inn
- *Power Driver - DuBois Lumber Co.
- *\$100 and one year free subscription--Crawford County Avalanche

To be a weekly winner:

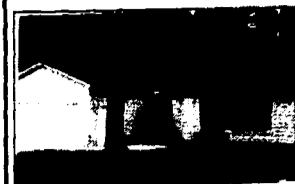
1. Write your prediction for game one on entry form.
2. Write the advertiser's name on entry form for game one. All the advertisers must be included.
3. Fill out rest of entry form this way including your three tie-breaker predictions (total points scored by both teams).
4. Return the entry form by 5 p.m. Friday to the Avalanche. Mail slot in our door may be used Wednesday or Thursday night after 5 p.m. and before 9 a.m. Mail entries must be postmarked Friday or earlier. No late entries accepted. No exceptions.
5. The person with the most correct picks wins all the weekly prizes listed.

To win the overall prizes:

1. Each time you turn in an entry form you'll receive points for your correct picks. Most games will be worth one point. (All games for week 1 are worth one point each.) Later in the season, certain games will be designated as bonus point games worth more than one point. The biggest bonus point game will be at the last week of the contest.
2. You don't have to enter each week to be eligible to win but if you play each week, you'll have more chances to win points.
3. The person with the most points at the end of the football contest will win all the overall prizes.

18. Notre Dame vs. LSU
(Bonus game worth 2 points)

CRAIG HINKLE



SHERWOOD FOREST An excellent location, close to town, with paved roads, natural gas and cable TV. Wooded parcel generous in size. Home features three bedrooms, one bath, newer carpeting, deck, split-rail fence and a large dining and living room area. \$68,900. CH-652

17. Arizona vs. New Mexico
(Bonus game worth 5 points)

One stop for advice and
complete hardware &
building needs!

DuBois Lumber Company
LUMBER & BUILDING MATERIALS
348-4831 • 609 NORWAY STREET • GRAYLING

16. S. Carolina St. vs. Southern
(Bonus game worth 2 points)

Watch for complete
coverage of the
Grayling Vikings
Sports action

AVALANCHE

15. Marshall vs. Mississippi (Fri Nite, 8 pm)
(Bonus game worth 5 points)

Guaranteed lowest prices on all
new Ford's & Mercury's.
Largest selection
of used cars
& trucks in
the North



SCOTT McNAMARA
FORD-MERCURY, INC.
At 18 • Roscommon, 1775 Business Loop
(517) 275-8922 fax (517) 275-4643

14. Miami vs. New England
(Bonus game worth 2 points)

Ask me about the
new 1998 cars,
trucks and vans
or close-out specials
on all remaining
1997 models



DON NESTER
CHEVROLET OLDSMOBILE Geo
Cliff Wheeler
275-5105
Located on M-76
North, Roscommon

13. Will Scott Mitchell throw an interception
against Tampa Bay?
(Bonus game worth 5 points)

FICK & SONS
PROPANE • HEATING OIL

RV & Cylinder Refilling Station
24 Hour Live Answering Service

TOLL FREE 1-800-292-9295
113 Fig St. • Grayling
348-7647

12. Jacksonville vs. Denver
(Bonus game worth 2 points)

COMFORT CENTER
FURNITURE STORES
SINCE 1974

Free Delivery

Grayling • M-72 West • 348-2961
Prudenville • M-55 & M-18 South
(517) 366-3808

11. Minnesota vs. N.Y. Giants
(Bonus game worth 5 points)

\$2.00 Off
Oil & Filter Change
Complete Lube Service
and 10 point vehicle check & fill
With this Coupon. Diesels extra.



GRAYLING

Stop. Go. Pennzoil.™
No Appointment Necessary
All Makes & Models
Up to 5 quarts of oil
Coupon expires 12/31/97
One coupon per vehicle - Not valid with any other offer

9. Detroit vs. Tampa Bay
(Bonus game worth 5 points)

Silk Screening
Glass Etching
Vinyl Letters
Embroidery



Engraving
Trophies
Banners
Awards
Flags

Larry Raymond - (517) 348-9097
5610 M-72 West - Grayling

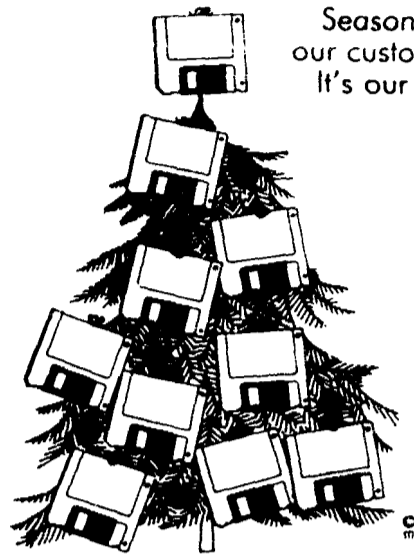
10. Will Barry Sanders rush for another 100 yards
against Tampa Bay? (Bonus game worth 2 points)

McLean's
ACE HARDWARE

For all your Hardware needs!

Merry Christmas

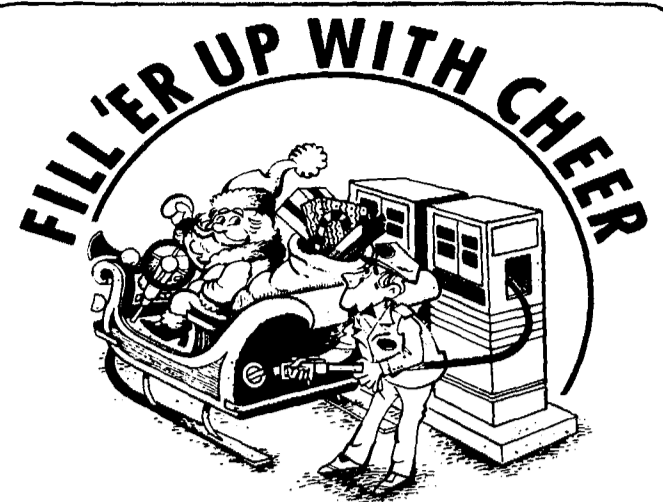
May All Your Memories Be Bright



Seasons Greetings to all our customers and friends. It's our pleasure to know and serve you.



**HI-TECH
COMPUTERS
INC**



Because good customers are at such a premium these days, we're extra grateful for your loyal support.

Bronco Amoco

Behold the Glory of Our Lord!



May you celebrate a joyous and peaceful Christmas with those you hold close to your heart. We truly appreciate your friendship and devotion.

235 Michigan Ave.
Grayling, Michigan
(517) 348-5111
1-800-686-GEMS
Mon.-Thurs. & Sat. 9-5:30
Fri. 9-8



Davis
Jewelers & Gemologists
Since 1941



Yuletide Greetings

Santa's sleigh is on the way and so are our very best wishes. Hope your season delivers a whole load of fun.

Merry Christmas, everyone!

**From the Staff
& Management of
Wendy's of Grayling**



Away In A Manger

*On a night like no other before or since,
the world was changed forever.
We're pleased to join you in celebration
of that blessed event, and to offer our thanks
for your kind patronage.*

Kentucky Fried Chicken.

HOLIDAY WISHES

**'TIS THE TIME OF
YEAR FOR US TO
EXTEND OUR
GRATITUDE AND
WISH YOU AND
YOUR FAMILY THE
BEST THE SEASON
AND NEW YEAR
HAS TO OFFER**

OLD KENT

MICHIGAN LOTTO

Wednesday
December 17, 1997
09 10 25 26 40 41

Saturday
December 20, 1997
03 21 24 27 34 48

Brought to you by:
Glen's
MARKETS
FROM OUR FAMILY
TO YOURS



SET ME UP — The J.V. girls volleyball team has started with an 0-2 record, but both losses have come in the final game of the match. Above, Brandi Ritter (No. 11) sets the ball for a spike, while Teresa Legg (13) stands by for help. Photo by David Golnick.

Venison offers wide choice for tasty, tender recipes

Michigan hunters are expected to harvest as many as 450,000 deer by the time the last of the state's firearm and archery seasons end in January.

At about 60 pounds of boned meat per deer on average, that translates into 25 million pounds of venison for the pot or pan.

The lean meat of the whitetail deer is a delicious and healthful alternative to commercial beef and pork, and popular wild game cookbook published by Michigan United Conservation Clubs offers numerous recipes and tips for preparing venison.

Wildlife Chef also provides concise how-to information on dressing, butchering and freezing deer meat, as well as advice and recipes for readying other big game, small game, wild fowl and fish for the table.

The 106-page book contains nearly 300 recipes and tips and even covers cooking with wild mushrooms, plants, berries and seasonings; making breads and desserts; and camp cooking.

Here are a couple of simple *Wildlife Chef* recipes for this year's deer harvest:

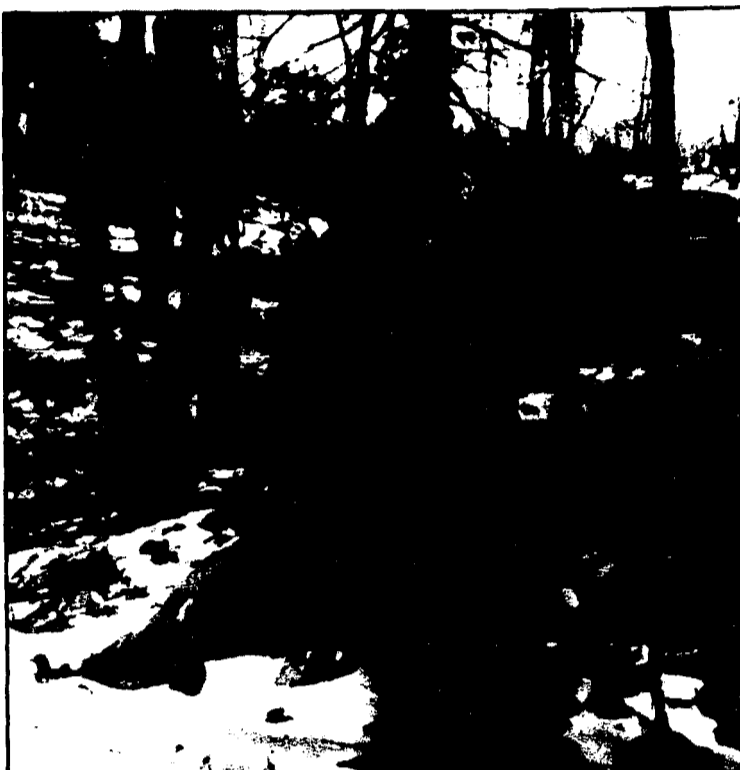
Venison Swiss Steak:
2 1/2 pounds venison steaks, 1/2

teaspoon salt, 1/2 cup flour, dash pepper, 2 tablespoons butter or margarine, 1/2 cup chopped green pepper, 1/2 cup chopped onion, 1 1/2 cup water, 1 small can tomato paste, 1 tablespoon bead molasses.

Trim all fat from venison. Roll meat in salt, pepper and flour. Brown meat in margarine in frying pan. Add water, tomato paste, bead molasses, green peppers, and onions. Bring to a simmer, stirring frequently. Lower temperature and let simmer for about two hours, stir-

ring occasionally. Serve piping hot with boiled parsley potatoes.

Venison Chili:
Brown one pound of ground venison and one large onion in oil. Use small amount of vegetable oil or shortening for a very lean venison. Add two quarts of canned tomatoes or tow large cans of stewed tomatoes, one can kidney beans, and chili pepper to taste. Tabasco or other hot sauce optional. Simmer two hours.



FIRST DEER — Laura Gassman, 14, of Grayling downed her first deer this year, and better yet, dad Bill Gassman was looking on at the time.

LEGAL ACTION

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

MORTGAGE SALE-Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by **Chad Alan FLOWERS, A single man, Individual to American Heritage, Inc., Mortgagee, dated December 1, 1995** and recorded on **December 7, 1995** in Liber 404, on Page 337, Crawford County Records, Michigan, and was assigned by said mortgage to the **FLAGSTAR BANK, FSB, N/A, First Security Savings Bank, FSB, as assignee by an assignment dated December 1, 1995** which was recorded on **December 7, 1995** in Liber 404, on Page 345, Crawford County Records, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of **Forty-Three Thousand Seven Hundred Forty-Two and 59/100 dollars (\$43,742.59)**, including interest at **8.375%** per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that

said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the **front door of the County Building in Grayling, Michigan** at **10:00 o'clock a.m., on Wednesday, January 28, 1998.**

Said premises are situated in **TOWN: SHIP OF GRAYLING, Crawford County, Michigan**, and are described as:

The South 1/2 of Lot numbered 12 and all of Lot numbered 13, Northern Ausable Acres, as recorded in Liber 3 of Plats, Page 31, Crawford County Records.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with 1948CL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: December 18, 1997
FLAGSTAR BANK, FSB
FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:
(248) 642-4202
Trott & Trott, P.C.
Attorneys for FLAGSTAR BANK, FSB.
30150 Telegraph
Suite 100
Bingham Farms, Michigan 48025
File # 97110005

-18-24-31-8-15

MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Robert A. Tremain & Associates, P.C. is a debt collector and we are attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

MORTGAGE SALE-Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by **TEDDIE L. CANNOY AND KAREN J. CANNOY, HUSBAND AND WIFE to UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ACTING THROUGH THE FARMERS, HOME ADMINISTRATION, U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE** now known as **USDA, RURAL DEVELOPMENT Mortgagee**, dated July 15, 1992, and recorded on July 15, 1992, in Liber 345, on page 73, CRAWFORD County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of **fifty five thousand seven hundred twenty seven and 19/100 Dollars (\$55,727.19)**, including interest at **8.250%** per annum.

Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and approved, notice is hereby given that said mortgagee will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue, at the front door of County Building, Grayling, MI, at 10:00 a.m. on January 14, 1998.

Said Premises are situated in **CITY OF GRAYLING, CRAWFORD County, Michigan** and are described as:

Lot 32, Sherrywood Forest, according to the Plat thereof as recorded in Liber 03 of Plats, Page 11, Crawford County Records.

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with 1948CL 600.3241(a) in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.

Dated: December 4, 1997
USDA, RURAL DEVELOPMENT
ATTORNEY FOR Mortgagee:
Robert A. Tremain & Associates, P.C.
401 South Old Woodard Avenue
Suite 300
Birmingham, MI 48009-6616
-4-11-18-25-1

NOTICE ROAD COMMISSION HEARING FOR 1998 BUDGET ADOPTION

The Road Commission Budget for 1998 will be presented and adopted during the regular meeting of December 26, 1997. The public hearing on the budget is set for 11:00 a.m. in the board room of The Road Commission For Crawford County, which is located at 500 Huron Street, Grayling, Michigan.

By: J. Briney, Managing Director
For: Ray Swiercz, Chairman
Bill Gannon, Vice-Chairman
Bob Nelson, Member

GRAYLING TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION

Notice is hereby given that on December 9, 1997, the Grayling Township Board adopted Ordinance 97-9, The BOCA Fire Prevention Code, 9th Edition, 1993, which follows and becomes effective January 22, 1998.

Monica S. Ashton, C.M.C.
Grayling Township Clerk

Grayling Township

THE BOCA FIRE PREVENTION CODE, 9TH EDITION, 1993

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING MINIMUM REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE SAFEGUARDING OF LIFE AND PROPERTY FROM FIRE AND EXPLOSION HAZARDS ARISING FROM STORAGE, HANDLING AND USE OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES, MATERIALS AND DEVICES, FROM BUILDINGS AND PREMISES, KNOWN AS THE FIRE PREVENTION CODE; AND REPEALING EXISTING FIRE PREVENTION CODES OF GRAYLING TOWNSHIP, STATE OF MICHIGAN.

Be it ordained by the Grayling Township Board of Trustees as follows:

SECTION 1. ADOPTION OF FIRE PREVENTION CODE.

That a certain document, one (1) which is on file in the office of the Grayling Township Clerk being marked and designated as "The BOCA National Fire Prevention Code, 9th Edition, 1993" as published by the Building Officials and Code Administrators International, Inc. be and hereby is adopted as the Fire Prevention Code by Grayling Township, State of Michigan; for the control of buildings, structures and premises as herein provided; and each and all of the regulations, provisions penalties, conditions and terms of said BOCA National Fire Prevention Code are hereby referred to, adopted and made a part hereof, as if fully set out in this Ordinance, with the additions, insertions, deletions and changes, if any, prescribed in Section 3 of this Ordinance.

The administration of this ordinance, issuance and approval of its permits shall be controlled and administered by the Grayling Township Building Inspector, and/or the Grayling City and Township Fire Department code officials, as directed by the Fire Chief.

SECTION 2: INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES REPEALED.

All other ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3: ADDITIONS, INSERTIONS AND CHANGES.

The BOCA National Fire Prevention Code is amended and changed in the following respects:
Section: F-101.4. Insert Grayling Township
Section: F-403.4. as amended

SECTION 4: ESTABLISHMENT OF LIMITS.

That the limits referred to in Section F-3003.2 of BOCA National Fire Prevention Code/1993 in which the storage of explosive materials is prohibited are hereby established as follows: NFPA 495 of 1990.

SECTION 5: SAVING CLAUSE.

That nothing in this Ordinance or in the Fire Prevention Code hereby adopted shall be construed to affect any lawsuit or proceeding pending in any court, or any rights acquired or existing, under any act or ordinance hereby repealed as cited in Section 2 of this Ordinance; nor shall any just or legal right or remedy of any character be lost, impaired or affected by this Ordinance.

SECTION 6: DATE OF EFFECT.

That the clerk of Grayling Township shall certify to the adoption of this Ordinance and cause the same to be published as required by law; and this Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its approval as required by law.

-24

SYNOPSIS GRAYLING TOWNSHIP BOARD Regular Meeting December 9, 1997

Members Present: Melvin Nunn, John Medler, Ruth O'Mara, Monica Ashton, Terry Wright. Members Absent: None. Others Present: Cindy Olson, Neal Michal, Dawn Workman, Charles & Joyce Easterly, Elke Meyn, Joan Thompson, Jon Thompson, Dan King, Richard Gildner.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Supervisor Wright.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by O'Mara/Nunn, carried, to approve minutes of November 18, 1997. All ayes.

Treasurer's Report for November 1997 was read and placed on file.

CORRESPONDENCE: (No action required) C.A. School District Board Happenings 10-20-97 and 11-17-97.

CITIZENS WHO WISH TO SPEAK:

Cindy Olson, Grayling Recreation Authority Director, updated the Board on activities and proposed projects at Hanson Hills which included improvement of the ice rink, which is open to the public free of charge. The G.R.A. is now in need of equipment to maintain the ice which will include a tractor with a snow blower and a brush. The tractor will be multi-use as it will assist in maintenance of the ball fields and cross country trails as well. The total cost of the Kubota diesel tractor will be \$14,000.00. G.R.A. is asking Grayling Township, the Grayling Youth Boosters, and Strong Families/Safe Children to share \$12,000.00 of this equipment expense.

Motion by Nunn, second by Ashton, to appropriate \$4,000.00 from the Community Promotion/Grant line of the 1997-98 General Fund Budget toward purchase of the diesel tractor for G.R.A. at Hanson Hills. Contribution to be awarded when matching funds to complete the \$14,000.00 purchase are secured from other sources. Nunn: aye. Ashton: aye. Medler: nay. O'Mara: aye. Wright: aye. Motion carried.

BUSINESS:
Motion by Medler, second by O'Mara, to adopt the Building Officials Code

Administration (BOCA) Fire Prevention Code, 9th Edition, 1993, as Grayling Township Ordinance 97-9. Summarized it is an Ordinance establishing minimum regulations governing the safe-guarding of life and property from fire and explosion hazards arising from storage, handling and use of hazardous substances, materials and devices, from buildings and premises known as the fire prevention code; and repealing existing fire prevention codes of Grayling Township, State of Michigan. Ordinance 97-9 to be published in the Crawford County Avalanche on December 24, 1997 and become effective on January 29, 1998. A copy to be included with the permanent record of these minutes as Appendix "A".

VOTE: Ayes: five, Nays: none, motion carried.

3. Motion by Ashton, second by O'Mara, to recess regular session and open PUBLIC HEARING for Juniper Way Special Assessment Roll for Maintenance. All ayes, motion carried.

Supervisor noted that the Tentative Special Assessment Roll was drawn on a bid from Jack Millikin, submitted at November 18, 1997 hearing, of \$7,500.00 per year for five years spread between 24 parcels of land which would benefit from the maintenance. Cost per parcel per year will be \$312.50. Total contract \$37,500.00.

Property owners who feel they will not benefit from the improvements must state so for the record tonight or must have notified the board in writing prior to this hearing to protect their rights to further appeal of the resulting assessment. No requests for exemption have been received to date.

Correspondence on file: R.H. & Julie Steffen, in favor of assessment as presented on Nov. 18, 1997. Tom & Dorothy Waterford, feel seasonal residents should pay less but proper maintenance would be a plus for the road.

Supervisor submitted a late bid from Milltown Sand & Gravel, received 12-09-97, consisting of \$10,400.00 for first year and \$4,500.00 next four years. Total contract \$28,400.00.

Dan King submitted a late bid from Tompkins Excavating of \$7,000.00 per year for five years. Total contract \$35,000.00.

Floor opened to public comment: Elke Meyn favors staying with Millikin's bid. Charles Easterly favors lowest bid. A show of

hands found a majority of those present in favor of staying with the bid from Jack Millikin, Inc.

Motion by O'Mara, second by Nunn, to close public hearing and re-convene regular session. All ayes, motion carried.

Motion by O'Mara, second by Ashton, to resolve to adopt the Special Assessment Roll for Maintenance of Juniper Way, Section 9 T26N, R3W, as drawn by the Supervisor from five 5 year bid by Jack Millikin, Inc. and authorize the first yearly assessment to be spread on the December 1997 Tax Roll. Roll call: O'Mara: aye. Ashton: aye. Medler: aye. Nunn: aye. Wright: aye. Motion carried.

Scott Dunn, Gaylord, introduced himself as 1988 candidate for State Representative of the 105th District.

Motion by O'Mara, second by Ashton, to authorize Grayling Township Board members to attend the Michigan Townships Association Annual Educational Conference in Detroit, MI. January 20-23 1998. Ayes: five, Nays: none, motion carried.

Motion by O'Mara, second by Medler, to adopt the proposed fee schedule for purchase of public information from the Grayling Township Office as presented and attached as Appendix "B". All ayes, motion carried.

Consensus of the board that a proposal from BSA Software and the Crawford County Treasurer that Grayling Township convert to Equalizer Tax Receipting and Assessing Programs be tabled until BSA has Windows 95 technology which has been beta tested.

Zoning Board of Appeals Resolution requesting petition fee increase to \$200.00 received no action.

Supervisor presented drawings, by Edgar E. Parks, P.E. and township resident, proposing forty foot addition to the current conference room of the Grayling Township Hall and enlargement of the parking lot. Mr. Parks offered the drawings fee gratis after becoming aware that the project was included in the strategic planning sessions held by the Township in May and October of 1997. The addition would allow elections to be held without interrupting business hours and allow the meeting room to be available for larger gatherings that the current 30-40 person capacity.

Consensus of the Board that the proposed plan appears adequate as well as aesthetic and requests the plan be re-introduced in March giving the Board time to determine priorities of other possible financial commitments including road projects and proposed township park.

The Board is grateful to Mr. Parks for his contribution to the project and looks forward to working with him in the future.
Minor changes were recommended to the draft of the Grayling Township Recreation Plan which will be re-read in January.

Motion by Nunn, second by Medler, to table issue of whether to waive tickets issued for junk violation on Madsen Street due to the property changing owners and the new owner promising clean-up. All ayes. Motion carried. REPORTS.

Compactor Report: Read and placed on file. Bldg & Zoning Report: Read and placed on file.

Motion by Nuno, second by O'Mara, to approve bills on vouchers 19161 through 19209, Guardian Dental \$487.30, and Board & Comm. fees \$295.00 for a total of \$6,749.09. Vote: Ayes: five, Nays: none, motion carried.

Motion to adjourn by Ashton, seconded and carried. (10:25 p.m.)
Monica S. Ashton, C.M.C.
Grayling Township Clerk

-24-31

CRAWFORD COUNTY HOUSING REHABILITATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1998 MEETING SCHEDULE

January 8, 1998
February 12, 1998
March 12, 1998
April 9, 1998
May 14, 1998
June 11, 1998

July 9, 1998
August 13, 1998
September 10, 1998
October 8, 1998
November 12, 1998
December 10, 1998

The meetings are held at the Citizens Bank, Grayling, MI in their conference room located in the basement and begin at 9 a.m. If any changes are made, the change will be published in ample time. Citizens wishing to address the Housing Commission Board may contact the Housing Commission office located at 203 Huron Street, Grayling, MI, (517) 348-3513, to be placed on the agenda.

Merry Christmas



Come Let Us Adore Him
We join you, your family and families all over the world in celebrating the birth of our Lord.

Sorenson Funeral Home, Inc.
McEvers Chapel
1108 North Down River Rd., PO Box 642, Grayling, MI 49730
(517) 846-2061

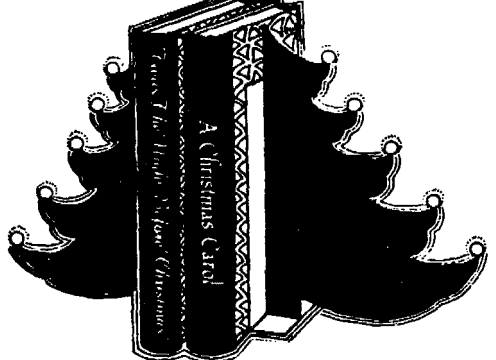


NOEL!
Wishing you all the joy and wonder of the Christmas season. Thanks for stopping by!

Grayling Glass

'Tis The Season...
To say, "Merry Christmas and thanks!"

Moore's Automotive 
AutoCare Center

We appreciate our many customers who celebrate reading as we do. A warm and festive season to all!

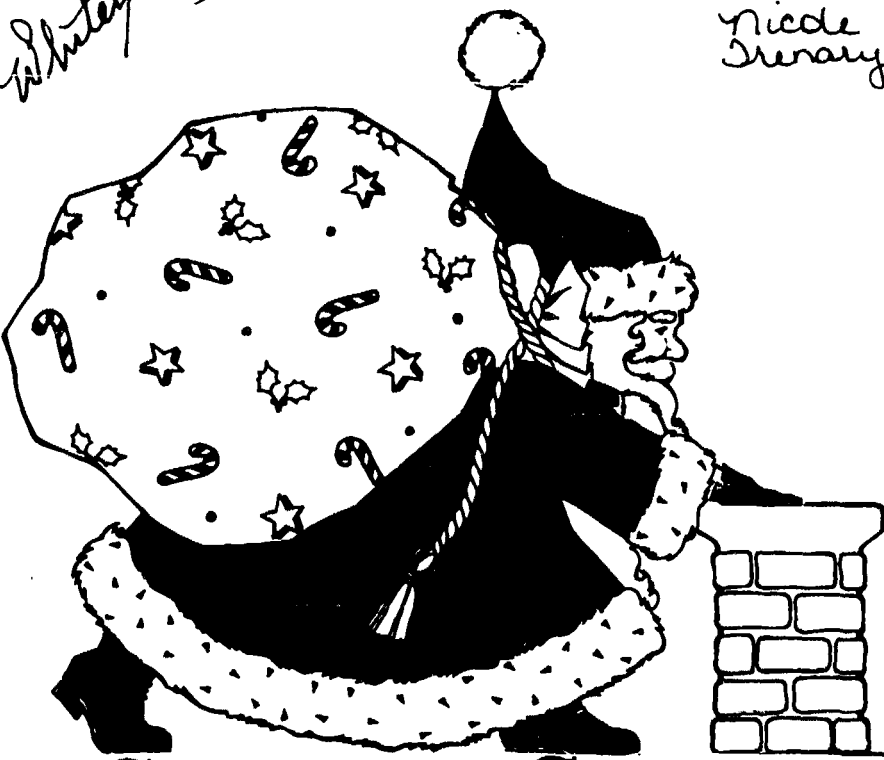
Crawford County Library
Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 10-7 pm • Fri. 10-6 pm • Sat. 10-2 pm 348-9214

HOPE YOUR HOLIDAY DELIVERS A BUNDLE OF CHEER


We've all gotten together to say, we're hoping good things are headed your way.

Merry Christmas & Best Wishes From Our Entire Staff

Ruth Doyle *Connie Beard*
Dana Anderson *Deb St. Germain*
Betty Peak *Marilyn Ginter*
Whitney *Dawn Workman* *Brian Watkins*
Nicole Sherry



AVALANCHE



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

May our sincere holiday wishes ring true for you now and throughout the year. To all of you who've been so kind, we say, "thank you for being there!" We greatly appreciate your business and your support. Hope your holiday is a bell-ringer!

Cooley Communication

Season's Greetings!
Thanks for giving us the opportunity to serve you. Merry Christmas and best wishes to all.



from everyone at the

Iron Gate Restaurant
1264 I-75 Business Loop, Grayling • 348-2323
Located at the Hospitality House

Gerta's Draperies
 "Everything in Window Treatments"
 FREE ESTIMATES IN-HOME APPOINTMENTS
517-732-3340
 Excellent Customer Service Since 1958
 2281 OLD 27 SOUTH • GAYLORD

High School Choirs attract full house for Holiday season Choral Celebration

by Cheryl A. Ruley
 Special Writer
 It was standing room only in the Joseph Stripe Auditorium for last Thursday night's "Light a Candle"

Holiday Choral Celebration, presented by the Grayling High School and Middle School Choirs.

Under the direction of Karen Ross and accompanied on the piano by Susan Wendenarr and Erika Aumock, the choirs performed a wide variety of cultural Christmas songs and a few pop favorites.

Prior to the opening number, some GHS Concert Choir members offered comments about the evening's program. "We feel really confident this will be the best concert ever," said Sarah Carmean.

Heidi Neiderer and T.J. Robbins were excited about their participation in an ensemble during the song, "Season of Dreams" which also included Tiffany Manely and Misty Medeiros.

Upon seeing the crowded auditorium, Jennifer Owen and Tabatha LaChance wished to thank everyone for coming and wished everyone a merry Christmas.

The Sixth Grade Choir was the



SCHOOL CHORISTERS -- An overflow crowd jammed the hall to hear the Christmas Choral Celebration presented by Grayling High School and Middle School choirs. Some of the talented singers are pictured above, with Director Karen Ross. Photo by Cheryl Ruley.

opening act. The 29 member group performed five songs, including Russian folk song, "The Little Birch Tree." A senior citizen in the audience whispered that the choir "sounded like little angels."

A real crowd-pleaser was "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch," from the Dr. Seuss classic "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." Soloists performing were Apryl Rugentein and Natalie Kerr.

The Seventh Grade Choir, consisting of an impressive 79 members, sang four songs including, "Out There" from Walt Disney's "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," and "Seven Feet of Snow." When, on this snowless evening, the choir sang out, "We're waiting for one, two, three, four, five, six, seven feet of snow!" and showered the stage with snowflake confetti, the audience responded with a hearty cheer and a round of applause. Soloists were Cody Meyers, Andrea Dunckley and James Lawrence.

Next was the Eighth Grade Choir, with 43 members in all. They sang four songs. "Calypso Allelu" gave the crowd a little sample of Christmas in the Caribbean. Gina

Rosi and Rachel VanGuilder were the accompanying percussionists.

The challenging "Carol of the Bells", was conquered by the singers, followed by the popular title song "That Thing You Do!" Choir members Alisha Carlisle and Sarah Weaver picked up the 60s beat, dancing "The Swim" and "The Monkey-Time."

The 45 member GHS Concert Choir performed "Candle on the Water," from Disney's "Pete's Dragon." Then, the Elvis Presley classic, "Jailhouse Rock," got the audience involved, toe-tapping and hand-clapping along with the boogieing choir members.

"Season of Dreams" included an enchanting solo by Dawn Adloff and an ensemble, mentioned above. Overall this was the Concert Choir's favorite song to perform in the program.

The final act was performed by the high school's premier choral group, the GHS Chamber Choir. An Audition was required to become a member of this 19-member group, along with a real passion for a quality performance.

The Chamber Choir opened with,

"O Sifuni Mungu", a mellow African song, telling all to "praise God and King." Eight different soloists performed during the song, as the choir gently swayed to the music.

The perfectly blended harmony of "Seize the Day", from the movie musical "Newsies", filled the auditorium next, followed by "The Bells" and "Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow!" The audience again applauded the idea of snowfall.

The Chamber Choir's closing number was the traditional hymn "Silent Night," with a beautiful solo by Heather Stevens, in the original German lyrics.

A candle-lit, grand finale performance of "Light a Candle" in the rich sound of all choirs combined, was a fitting end to the holiday program.

Choir Director Karen Ross asked everyone to join in the singing of "Let There Be Peace On Earth."

The performance was followed by refreshments provided by the Middle School Choirs.

After the holidays, the choirs will prepare for their upcoming Spring concert.

Eye Health
 Comprehensive eye examination • Guaranteed contact lens fit • New patients welcome • Vision insurance plans accepted • Discounts on second pair • Senior savings • Great Selection • Great Service • Great Prices
Grayling Vision Center
 Dr. Mark Noss • Optometrist
 Appointments available within 7 days
 Call (517) 348-2833
 110 Michigan Avenue, Downtown Grayling

MICHIGAN SNOWSHOE CENTER
 Sales & Rentals
Breaking New Trails To Winter Fun!
 REDFEATHER Introductory Series
 IVERSON Traditional Showshoes
 TUBBS Quality Products Since 1906
 ATLAS #1 Snowshoe in the USA
 *Accessories *Lodge *Lessons *Trails
Higgins Hills
 3800 W. Federal Highway, Roscommon, MI 48653
 1 mile west off I-75 Exit 244 * 1-800-478-8151

COMFORT CENTER
FURNITURE STORES

DECEMBER

26	27	28	29	30	31
FRI SALE STARTS	SAT THIS WEEK ONLY	SUN	MON	TUES	WED SALE ENDS

Serta
WE MAKE THE WORLD'S BEST MATTRESS

WE MUST DO ONE MONTH'S BUSINESS THIS WEEK BETWEEN CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S!!

BONUS #1

FREE BEDFRAME OR WE PAY YOUR 6% SALES TAX ON ALL PERFECT SLEEPER SETS

BONUS #2

PLUS YOU PAY NOTHING UNTIL JULY 1998

NO MONEY DOWN - NO DOWN PAYMENTS - NO INTEREST (TO QUALIFIED BUYERS - \$300 MIN. PURCHASE)

BONUS #3

FREE DELIVERY & REMOVAL OF OLD BEDDING (WITH EVERY SET)

SAVE UP TO 50%	ECONOMY FIRM	STANDARD FIRM	SERTAPEDIC LUXURY FIRM	PERFECT SLEEPER EXTRA FIRM	PERFECT SLEEPER DELUXE COMFORT	PERFECT SLEEPER PILLOW SOFT OR FIRM	PERFECT SLEEPER PILLOW LUXURY TOP OR FIRM	PERFECT SLEEPER ULTRA LUXURY FIRM OR PLUSH
TWIN EA. PC. (39X75)	\$78 REG. \$129	\$98 REG. \$179	\$128 REG. \$249	\$148 REG. \$299	\$188 REG. \$349	\$218 REG. \$399	\$248 REG. \$499	\$298 REG. \$599
FULL EA. PC. (54X75)	\$98 REG. \$179	\$148 REG. \$249	\$178 REG. \$349	\$198 REG. \$399	\$248 REG. \$499	\$298 REG. \$599	\$348 REG. \$699	\$378 REG. \$799
QUEEN 2 PC. SET (60X80)	\$248 REG. \$399	\$348 REG. \$599	\$398 REG. \$769	\$448 REG. \$899	\$548 REG. \$1099	\$648 REG. \$1299	\$748 REG. \$1499	\$848 REG. \$1699
KING 3 PC. SET (39X75)	N/A	\$448 REG. \$799	\$568 REG. \$999	\$648 REG. \$1199	\$798 REG. \$1399	\$878 REG. \$1599	\$968 REG. \$1799	\$1048 REG. \$1999

GRAYLING

M-72 WEST • 517-348-2961

COMFORT CENTER
FURNITURE STORES

PRUDENVILLE

CORNER OF M-55 & M-18 S. • 517-366-3808

SALE PRICES BASED ON SET PURCHASE. REGULAR PRICES ARE OFFERING PRICES ONLY. SALES MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE BEEN AT REGULAR PRICES.

YOU'RE #1 WITH US!

RE/MAX[®] OF GRAYLING

EACH OFFICE INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED



During the Christmas season more than ever, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our progress possible. And in this spirit we say, thank you and best wishes for a wonderful holiday.

Our Spirits Are Soaring



Charlene Scheer
Broker/Owner
Valuation Specialist
G.R./C.R.S.



Craig Hinkle
Broker/Owner
State Licensed Appraiser



Jerry Gosnell
Valuation Specialist/Associate Broker
G.R./C.R.S.



Kim McClain
Sales Associate



Bonnie Odell
Sales Associate



Gary Boyd
Sales Associate



Darla Vonderheid
Sales Associate



John Cherven
Sales Associate



Michele Moshier
Office Administrator



Kelly Stockwell
Personal Assistant
to Craig Hinkle

ADVERTISING CLASSIFIEDS

Section C - Crawford County Avalanche

Wednesday, December 24, 1997

1. Real Estate

AUSABLE MAINSTREAM Vacant lot, 200 ft. river frontage, above McMasters Bridge. Ideal building site. Private access, telephone and electricity. Hal broker. 348-5965. 4-11-18-24/1

1. Real Estate

AUSABLE COUNTRY ACRES a log home association development. Park, cable, underground utilities, near AuSable River and Kneff Lake. Land contract terms. Contact 517-348-7355, Grayling. 12/22/97tf/1

1. Real Estate

JUST COMPLETED THREE BED-ROOM 1 1/2 bath, two car garage, natural gas heat. Two miles from Grayling. \$85,000. 333 Redwing Terrace. Call 348-2928 or 348-8945. 10/23/97tf/1

Debbie BONDAR
Century 21

RIVER COUNTRY REAL ESTATE
GRAYLING • HIGGINS LAKE

The year end brings no greater pleasure than the opportunity to thank those who have made my continued success possible.

Thank you and best wishes for the holiday season. Have a happy and prosperous New Year and a very safe and healthy 1998!

Century 21

River Country Real Estate

5889 W. • D-72 • Grayling, MI 49738

Office
348-5474

Home
348-1136



Debbie Bondar

VACANT LOT in an excellent area for year-around recreation. Lot is located in an association offering a club house with an enclosed heated swimming pool, a golf course and restaurant, great snowmobile country, two small lakes with beach houses and an airstrip! What more could your family be looking for? GREAT PLACE TO LIVE! \$11,200. #3977

IDEAL BUILDING SITE for your home or weekend get away on two vacant lots in a beautiful subdivision close to Lake Margrethe. This subdivision offers natural gas and cable TV, and is also close to the beach and boat launch. Also a great area for those winter sports. EXCELLENT AREA FOR YEAR-AROUND RECREATION. \$6,500. #3979

LARGE VACANT LOT adjacent to state land and located in a nice family area offering year-around recreation. The area offers a club house with a heated olympic-size swimming pool, campgrounds, trout fishing pond, and both a rifle range and golf driving range. COME NORTH TODAY! \$2,500. #3978

ALL SPORTS AREA!! A nice and big building site in a platted subdivision located north of Grayling with easy access to I-75 Expressway. This area is convenient to everything from snowmobiling, hunting and fishing, and within minutes from several golf courses, offering you year-around recreation. PRICED TO SELL. \$2,800. #4010

NICE BUILDING SITE in a quiet area that offers many extras with a clubhouse for parties, heated swimming pool, campgrounds and more. Roads are maintained year around. GREAT FOR YEAR-AROUND RECREATION. \$2,000. #4069

BEAUTIFUL 10-ACRE PARCEL of hardwoods and high ground. Close to Section 28 Lake in Orange Township, Kalkaska County. \$15,500. #4183

For additional information, please call one of our real estate professionals at

Century 21
River Country Real Estate

1-800-807-2924
or local, 348-5474

CORNELL REAL ESTATE

Corner of I-75 Business Loop and M-72 East
PO Box 527, Grayling, MI 49738

OR MLS



Serving the Real Estate needs of the Grayling area for over 40 years.



CHASE BRIDGE ROAD Great little cabin on a county-maintained road. Cabin is 480 sq. ft., bath with a path, furnished and is in "as-is" condition. Good hunting area. \$24,900. (MC-521)



THREE-BEDROOM, ONE-BATH SALTBOX Walking distance to the North Branch, 2 1/2 acres with great hunting. Large garage with work area. Electric heat and economical stove. Near state land. \$49,900. (SC-27)



TEN ACRES of hardwoods northeast of Frederic. 1460 mobile with a 24x24 attached building. Great area for hunting and snowmobiling. \$29,000. (FS-41)



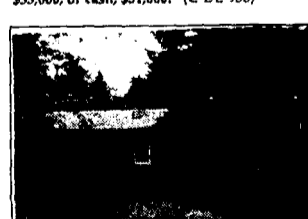
GRAYLING MOBILE ESTATES Three-bedroom home, 1,630 sq. ft., 1 1/2 baths, family room, covered patio and carport. Large garage, garden area. Includes stove, refrigerator and washer. Lots of updating. Owner financing. \$33,000, or cash, \$31,000. (C-DL-938)



TEN ACRES OF PRIVACY This beautiful, well-maintained home offers three bedrooms, three baths, full finished basement, two-car garage, and that country feeling. Many more features too numerous to mention. \$110,000. (DM-46)



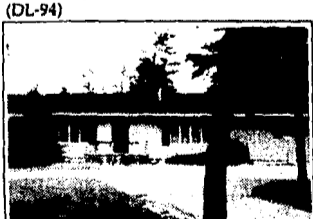
M-72 EAST IS THE LOCATION of this three-bedroom mobile home with roof over. New furnace. Includes stove and refrigerator, 24x40 garage and satellite dish, plus your own trout pond. \$46,900. (DL-94)



KAREN WOODS is the location of this lovely three-bedroom home. Covered patio, two-car garage. Beautiful custom fireplace, includes appliances. Large corner lot with nice trees. \$59,900. (FS-37)



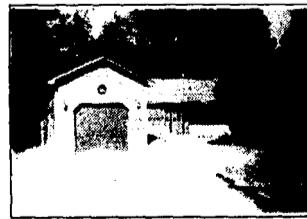
AUSABLE WOODS This beautiful new home is ready to move in! It has 1,512 sq. ft., four bedrooms, two full baths, 20x22 finished garage. Must see to appreciate. \$112,000. (LM-954)



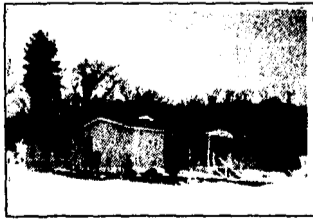
HOME WITH ACREAGE Over 1,700 sq. ft. with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, woodburner, large garage and carport, root cellar and satellite dish. Extra well for garden and lawn. Excellent condition. \$96,000; Reduced, \$89,900. (DL-59)



THREE-BEDROOM CHALET located on a large wooded lot with close access to hunting, fishing and snowmobiling. Includes stove and refrigerator. New carpet and inlaid in 1997. Shows pride of ownership. Over 1,200 sq. ft. \$61,900. (DL-96)



MANISTEE RIVER 100' river frontage w/beautiful cedar-sided 3,200 sq. ft. home built in 1996, which sits on +/- 2 acres. Home includes three bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, finished basement, fireplace, custom cabinets. Too many features to mention. State land across the street. \$270,000. Reduced to \$183,900. (KJ/LJ-201)



ROOM TO ROAM Six-bedroom home with two baths, 30x36 pole barn garage, and a small guest house or workshop. Twenty acres with large hardwoods, apple orchard and thousands of planted pines near the river. Adjoins state land. \$149,000. (DL-34)

517 348-6481 or Toll-free 1-800-455-8896

1. Real Estate

HUNTING CAMP 10-80 acres w/ cabins, can divide. Surrounded by state land. \$14,000-\$112,000. N. Grayling, MI. Financing possible. 616-947-1990. 11/20/97tf/1

HOUSE FOR SALE Three bedroom, one bath, attached garage. All appliances included. Farm Home Assumable, \$74,000. Call 348-5679. -4-11-18-24/1

AUSABLE FOUR ACRES, two building sites, paved road, high ground, big trees and abundant wildlife. Terms. Hal. broker. 517-348-5965. 4-11-18-24/1

TWO POSSIBLY THREE BEDROOM home located on 5 Mile Road. Big attached garage, one acre. \$45,000. 348-8112. -18-24-31-8/1

PRICE REDUCED, \$39,500, two bedroom, one bath, vacant, 300 Huron St. (one block from Cornell Insurance on M-72 East), was \$44,500. 348-4055. 11/13/97tf/1

FOR SALE BY OWNER In town, low maintenance house, two bedroom, one bath, kitchen with dining area. Full furnished basement, bedroom, den, family room, kitchen. All new appliances, carpet, window treatments. Lots of storage area. For details call 1-616-592-0320. LR1/21/98/1

AUSABLE RIVER home on Wendy Lane. Lovely four bedroom, 1 1/2 baths. Chalet. Fireplace, attached 1 1/2 car garage, furnished. Beautiful setting on 10 acres with 175 ft. frontage. Owner very anxious. Reduced to \$139,000. Call Hamrick Real Estate Co. P.C. Phone or fax. 517-348-5433, evenings 348-8336. 12/18/97tf/1

NEWLY BUILT 1,250 sq. ft., three bedroom, attached garage, 123x165' lot, Karen Woods subdivision. 6174 Libby. \$72,500. 348-4840. -18-24-31-7/1

FOR SALE OR RENT Two-three bedroom, vinyl sided, partial log home. New 4" well, furnace and carpet. Near Ausable River state land. Contact 517-348-7355. 12-4-97tf/1

2. For Rent

FOR LEASE river front home, two bedroom, one bath, utility, combined kitchen and living room, enclosed porch, storage shed, \$400. First and last month's plus \$400 security deposit and utilities references. 348-8466. 11/13/97tf/2

DUPLEX one mile from town. Washer, dryer, stove, refrigerator, heat, lawn and snow maintenance included. \$525 per month, first and last months to move in. 348-6938. -18-24-31/2

KITCHENETTE FOR RENT Western Trails Motel. 517-348-7681. -18-24/2

ON THE BEAUTIFUL GULF of Mexico-Gulf shores, Alabama-condo. Winter rental-west beach area. Two bedrooms/one bath, fully furnished. No pets, no smoking. \$550/month (334)344-0429. -11-18-24-31/2

2. For Rent

COBBLE CREEK APARTMENTS now leasing. For additional information call 517-348-3150. Hearing impaired call 1 800-760-1997. EOE -11-18-24-1/2

TWO BEDROOM apartment in town. 275-2100. -24-31/2

NORTH HIGGINS LAKE AREA Two bedroom, clean and neat country location, yet convenient to town. \$445 a month, first and last months rent, credit report obtained. 517-732-2353, weekdays, 517-939-8965, evenings and weekends. -24-31/2

FOR RENT three efficiency cabins, \$250 per month plus security and \$50 cleaning fee, plus electric. Two-\$285 and \$270, plus security and \$50 cleaning fee. Utilities paid. 348-5124. -24/2

2. For Rent

CABIN FOR RENT: on the river. Nightly or weekly. 517-348-8350. 9/9/97tf/2

NEWS 348-6811

3. Employment

Newspapers deliver!

89% read a daily or non-daily newspaper in the last week (where community newspapers distribute).

71% in non-metro areas regularly read a community newspaper.

Crawford County Avalanche
102 Michigan Avenue
Grayling, MI 49738
(517) 348-6811
FAX (517) 348-6806

SALES POSITION AVAILABLE

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE, has a career opportunity for you in Grayling. I will be interviewing men and women who are interested in securing a full-time, multi-line agent position. You will become licensed, in life, auto, home and commercial insurance, with one of the most familiar names in insurance for Michigan. We offer advanced training, licensing, salary, commissions, bonuses and a very nice benefit package. Insurance experience is not necessary, but prior sales, and some college preferred. Call 1-517-731-0052 to set up a confidential interview.

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE
Farm Bureau Insurance, Farm Bureau, Life, Auto, Home, Commercial Insurance.

The GRAYLING HOUSING COMMISSION is taking applications for family three-bedroom apartments. Rent is based on 30% gross income. Utilities are included in the rent.

Qualifications:
1. good rental history
2. good credit history
3. family size appropriate for each apartment size

(517) 348-9314

Rent Range:

Family of 2:	\$107 - \$555	Maximum income \$22,700
Family of 3:	\$125 - \$615	Maximum income \$25,550
Family of 4:	\$150 - \$674	Maximum income \$28,400

11/16/97tf/2

3. Employment

EXPANDING NORTHERN MICHIGAN manufacturing facility is seeking self-motivated applicants to succeed in a team orientated environment. If you have experience in external o.d. grinding, surface grinding, bridgeport operation, good math skills and able to read blue prints. Please submit resume to: Attn: Personal Director, P.O. Box 538, Lewiston, MI 49756 -18-24/3

3. Employment

WANTED EXPERIENCED house cleaner, four hours a week for high quality cleaning. Looking for friendly person who is professional and takes pride in their work. Must be honest and dependable. References required. Send resume to Attn: P.O. Box 376, Grayling, MI 49738. -24-31/3

Mich-CAN Statewide Ad Network

NEED CASH??? Receiving payments from property sold? Injury settlement? Annuity? Lottery? "We'll pay cash for remaining payments." Immediate Quotes! Untouchable Prices!!! (License #MB/B-313) Buschur Mortgage 1-800-776-8506.

"CASH." Immediate \$\$ for structured settlements and deferred insurance claims. J.G. Wentworth 1-800-231-5375.

DOCTOR LOANS MONEY ON REAL ESTATE AND BUYS LAND CONTRACTS. Fast closing, immediate cash. Deal directly with Doctor Daniels & Son, 1-800-837-6166, 1-248-335-6166.

*******LAND CONTRACTS******* If you're receiving payments on a Land Contract, GET A BETTER CASH PRICE IN ONE DAY. Argo Realty (248) 569-1200, Toll-Free 1-800-367-2746.

MICHIGAN BUILDERS LICENSE Course. Prepare now to pass the next Michigan Builders License Exam. Moneyback guaranteed. \$95 includes complete course materials. Free information: 1-800-541-1030.

LOCAL CANDY ROUTE. 30 Vending Machines. Earn apx. \$800/day. All for \$9,995. Call 1-800-998-VEND.

2ND CHANCE MORTGAGE. NO APPLICATION FEES. Poor Credit, Bankrupt, Foreclosure, ok! Pay off Taxes, Land Contracts, Credit Cards, Medical Bills, or do Home Improvements - FAST APPROVALS - TAMER MORTGAGE CO. 1-800-285-5284.

WOLFF TANNING BEDS. Tan at home! Buy direct and SAVE. Commercial/Home units from \$199. Low Monthly Payments! Call today for FREE Color Catalog 1-800-842-1310.

NEED MONEY? Homeowners, We have the right loan for you! Speedy service. Quick closings. Slow credit OK. Take cash out for ANY worthwhile purpose. Call Mortgage America today! 1-800-334-7038.

DRIVER OTR Top Miles. Top Pay Leader in Miles for Five Years Running. COVENANT TRANSPORT 1-800-441-4394. Experienced Drivers and Owner Operators 1-800-338-6428. Graduate Students, Bud Meyer Refrigerated Truck Line, Solo Drivers and Contractors, 1-888-667-3729.

CASH FOR THE HOLIDAYS! We pay cash now, for structured settlements, annuities, lottery winners, contracts, invoices, trusts, royalties. CORE FUNDING 1-800-481-7742.

PEPSI/HERSHEY ROUTE! ALL CASH BUSINESS! Choice Local Sites. Full-time/Part-time. \$1,200+ Weekly Potential. Small investment/Huge Profits! CALL (24 Hours): 1-888-766-7677, Ext. 4070.

COMMONPOINT MORTGAGE offers help for homeowners. From debt consolidation to home improvements and more, CommonPoint has the answer. Rest easy this holiday season - call today! CommonPoint Mortgage 1-800-968-2221. Equal Housing Opportunity.

AN INVESTMENT CO. pays top dollar for LAND CONTRACTS, MTGS, STRUCTURED SETTLEMENTS & ANNUITIES. Sell Direct. 1-800-641-1717 8am-9pm 7 days.

HOMEOWNERS LOANS! "Borrow up to 25% more than your home is worth!" Consolidate bills! Home Improvements! No Application Fee! Apply By Phone. SAM-BOY FINANCIAL: 1-800-691-1668.

SAWMILL \$3795. Saws logs into boards, planks, beams. Large capacity. Best sawmill value anywhere. Free information. Norwood Sawmills, 90 Curtwright Drive, #3, Amherst, NY 14221. 1-800-578-1363.

Place Your Statewide Ad Here! \$239 buys a 25 word classified ad and \$5 for each additional word. Offering 1,400,000 Circulation in newspapers across Michigan. Call the Avalanche 348-6811, for details.

3. Employment

WANTED EXPERIENCED PERSON for professional child care in our home for newborn. Approximately 40 hrs. per week. References required. Send resume to Attn: P.O. Box 376, Grayling, MI 49738. -24-31/3

EXPERIENCED HAIR STYLIST wanted at Northern Expression. For more information about chair rental, please call 348-8555 or 348-5268. -18-24-31-8/3

Custom Business Forms available at the AVALANCHE

3. Employment

NOTICE OF OPEN POSITION
Posting Date: December 24, 1997.
Position: Grayling High School Library Media Paraprofessional. Full parapro description and qualifications are available at 403 Michigan Avenue, Grayling, MI. Work Year: Seven hours per day, 186 days per year plus vacation and holidays.
Salary: According to contract.
Contact: Paul B. Lerg, Assistant Superintendent, Crawford AuSable School District, 403 E. Michigan Avenue, Grayling, MI 49738.
Deadline: 4:00 p.m., January 7, 1998. Crawford AuSable School District Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Statement. -24-31/3

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The City of Grayling, Michigan is seeking qualified applicants for the position of City Treasurer.

This position reports directly to and is appointed by the City Manager. The day to day work consists of normal accounting functions and treasurer duties, including direct supervision of one employee and responsibility for administration of the City Income Tax.

The person selected for this job must possess a high level of competence in computer operations and be able to operate independently using the fund balance system and a recently installed property tax program (BS&A).

Salary and benefits will be dependent upon qualifications and/or education/experience. Current salary mid \$30,000.00 with a full fringe benefit package.

Additional details regarding the position may be obtained from the Grayling City Manager at 103 S. James, Grayling, MI 49738. Inquiries will be handled in a confidential manner if desired. The City of Grayling is an equal opportunity employer. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Jerry Morford, City Manager
12/16/97/3

YOUTH OUTREACH ADVOCATE

Full-time Opening

Performs a variety of duties to ensure the emotional and physical safety of women and children is achieved. Implement children's services which include individual interviews, support group sessions and educational sessions for school systems. Minimum qualifications include BA in social work, psychology or any other related human services field. Requirements include a minimum of six months relevant work experience, effective oral and written communication skills; excellent organization skills, and the ability to relate to individuals from dysfunctional families.

River House Shelter is a Mercy affiliated, 16-bed emergency facility serving adult female and child victims of domestic violence from Crawford, Ogemaw, Oscoda and Roscommon counties.

Qualified candidates can apply in person, or call for application:
Human Resources Dept., Mercy Hospital/Grayling
1100 Michigan Ave., Grayling, MI 49738
Phone: (517) 348-0340.

Achieving Workforce Diversity Through Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

MERCY AMICARE HOME CARE & HOSPICE

MERCY AMICARE HOME CARE & HOSPICE IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

HOSPICE - Full-Time, Part-Time and Contingent RN. Immediate opening for RN to assist patients achieve their wish to stay in their own home at the end of their lives. One or more years of professional nursing experience is required, medical/surgical, ICU or homecare experience desirable. Must have well-developed assessment skills and ability to work independently. Rewarding position offering excellent wages and mileage reimbursement. Please call Kimberly Mecomber, Hospice Clinical Manager.

HOSPICE - Part-Time Certified Home Health Aide. Successful candidates will have a minimum of six months home health or certified nurse aide experience. Please call Kimberly Mecomber, Hospice Clinical Manager.

HOMECARE - RN/LPNs. Needed to work weekdays with home ventilator program clients. LPNs must be NAPES certified or attended a pharmacology course. Ventilator training available. Competitive wages offered and mileage reimbursement. Contact Deb Tyler, Clinical Coordinator.

HOMECARE - Contingent Home Health Aides. Successful candidates will have a minimum of six months home health or certified nurse aide experience. Must be willing to drive any of our nine county service area. Competitive wages offered and mileage reimbursement. Please call Debbie Tyler, Clinical Coordinator.

HOMECARE - Full-Time and Contingent Respiratory Therapist. In this position, you will be responsible for initial in-home respiratory equipment set-up and instruction. You will document physical and psychosocial assessments of the clients presenting symptoms, obtaining diagnostic information on clients and assess existing and potential problem areas, needs and resources of individuals, families and significant others and set priorities in collecting data and developing a plan of treatment. The successful candidate will be a Registered Respiratory Therapist or Certified Respiratory Therapy Technician. One to two years durable medical equipment experience a plus. Please contact Ron Koryciak, Operations Manager.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE PERSON LISTED IN INDIVIDUAL AD: 1-800-424-1457/517-348-4383

OR

PLEASE FAX RESUME TO 517-348-3234 OR MAIL TO PERSON LISTED IN INDIVIDUAL AD: 125 MICHIGAN AVENUE, GRAYLING, MI 49738.

MERCY AMICARE HOME CARE & HOSPICE IS COMMITTED TO ACHIEVING DIVERSITY IN THE WORK PLACE AND IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

REAL ESTATE FORECLOSURE SALE

Crawford County Courthouse
Wednesday, January 14, 1998 at 10 am

Address: 1056 Little John Ave., Grayling, MI 49738
Minimum Bid: \$43,631 • Three bedrooms, 1.5 baths
Redemption Period: six (6) months

Offer must be in form of certified check or money order the day of the sale.
Equal Housing Opportunity

For information contact Rural development at:
USDA Rural development
240 W. Wright St.
West Branch, MI 48661
(517) 345-5470

Contact Keith Kenney
Your Grayling NBD Mortgage Officer

WANT a quick approval? NEED a quick approval? GET a quick approval! with NBD's **RAPID REPLY™ MORTGAGE PROGRAM**

Keith Kenney

- 7th Largest Bank in the US
- National Market Leader in Mortgage Lending
- Low Rates and Great Terms
- Loan Decisions Made Locally

First Chicago NBD Mortgage Center
2375 S. I-75 Bus. Loop • Suite #2
Grayling, MI 49738
517-348-5523 • 1-888-464-6230

5. For Sale

Everyone's reading



the
**Crawford
County
Avalanche!**

Don't be left
out, buy a
subscription
today &
SAVE!

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
AMOUNT PAID _____

Permanent Local \$16
Crawford, Roscommon, Otsego, Kalkaska & Oscoda Counties
Seasonal Address Changes add \$4
Non-Local \$24
Outside local counties
Foreign \$52
\$1 Senior Citizen discount on all rates. Age 60 and older.

Crawford County Avalanche
PO Box 490, Grayling, MI 49738

5. For Sale

SNOWMOBILE AUCTION Saturday, January 3. 250 to 300 new and used snowmobiles sell are noon; trailers at 10 a.m.; parts/clothing at 9 a.m. You can sell or buy. For information recording call 517-369-1153. Free brochure. Buyers/sellers from eight states and Canada. Terms: travelers checks, cash, Visa/MC/Discover. We do not accept any checks! White Star Auction, Inc., US12 Bronson, Michigan. -24-31/5

ATV SALE! New 1997 Polaris ATVs. "400" liquid cooled, four wheel drive "Explorer", electric start and automatic transmission. List \$5,824, sale \$4,999 plus tax. Many others. Terms: Spicer's Boat City, M-55 next to high school, Houghton Lake. 517-366-8400. Closed Wed. -24-31/5

GET TWO 1998 Indy Trails, aluminum trailer, covers and two complete clothing outfits for \$9,888 plus tax. Many other packages. Bank terms. Spicer's Boat City, M-55 next to high school, Houghton Lake. 517-366-8400. Closed Wed. -24-31/5

ADVERTISE STATEWIDE: \$239 buys a 25-word classified ad (\$5 for each additional word) Offering a 1,700,000 circulation in newspapers across Michigan. Call the **Avalanche at 348-6811** for details.

VISA MasterCard

FOR YOUR

The Crawford County Avalanche now accepts Visa and MasterCard credit cards for subscriptions, and the placement of display and classified advertising.

CONVENIENCE

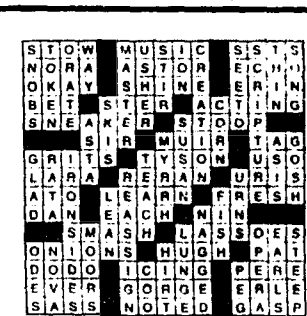
7. Miscellaneous

SEVEN MONTH OLD Springer Spaniel. Free to good home. Female, has all her shots. Call any time. 517-821-7916, leave message. -24-31/7

8. Announcements

WELCOME WAGON HOSTESSES Call Betty Mansfield, 348-8562, or Mary Lou Passmore, 348-5816. If you are a newcomer, engaged or a new mother. 8/3/85td/8

FREE CASH GRANTS! College. Scholarships. Business. Medical bills. Never repay. Toll free 1-800-218-9000 Ext. G-8887. -4-11-18-24/8



ANSWERS

This week's puzzle is sponsored by:
The Law Office of John B. Huss
Over 95 years experience, specializing in:
Probate • Wills • Real Estate • Divorce
517-348-5431 • Grayling Mini Mall

11. Automotive

5. For Sale

FACTORY REBATES, plus Spicer's discounts equal up to \$1,000 savings on some '98 models! Hundreds off on every deal! Bank terms. Spicer's Boat City, M-55 next to high school, Houghton Lake. 517-366-8400. Closed Wed. -24-31/5

PACKAGE DEALS! Buy (two) new '98 Ski Doo Formula S, aluminum trailer, covers and all clothing for two for only \$8,844 plus tax! All packages priced right! Bank terms. Spicer's Boat City, M-55 next to high school, Houghton Lake. 517-366-8400. Closed Wed. -24-31/5

HELP WANTED HINTS: When placing a Help Wanted Classified, remember to list the job title and duties involved, whether it is full- or part-time, the name of company or business, mailing address for resumes, or street address for walk-in applications.

Crawford County Avalanche,
102 Michigan Avenue, Grayling,
(517) 348-6811

10. Garage Sales

JUST IN TIME for Christmas. A fine selection of antique bamboo fly rods, reels, lures. Pierce Fine Antique Sporting Equipment at the Grayling Antique Mall. Downtown Grayling (across from The Shoppenagon Inn). Open Mon.-Sat. 10-5. Some Sun. 11-3. Phone number 517-348-2113. -20-27-4-11-18-25/10

ST. FRANCIS THRIFT SHOP

6445 West M-72
Grayling, Michigan 49738
1-517-348-2572
Check our "In-House"
SPECIALS
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,
Friday, 10 am - 4 pm
Saturday 10 am - 2 pm

11. Automotive

'89 CHEVY SILVERADO 1/2 ton. 4x2, 350, most options. Book price is over \$6,300, asking \$5,495. (517) 826-8088, leave message. -18-24/11

ADVERTISING DEADLINES: Regular Display - 1/2 to full page. 5 pm Thursday. All other 5 pm Friday. Classified Display - 12 noon Monday. Classified by the word 12 noon Tuesday. These deadlines may change with notice due to holidays or special publication.

Milto Auto Painting
• Collision Repair • Frame Repair
• Free Towing within 15 miles
6414 W. M-72 Across from Cope's N Cones
(517) 348-6288 • 1-800-459-7384

JJ's Motor Mall
M-72 West • Grayling • 348-7710
We've Moved! Across from Skip's Sport Shop & Cartwright and Danewell
Same, Quality, Used Cars,
Trucks & Vans!
Same, Fair Prices!

9. Personals

HAPPY 41ST BIRTHDAY Cindy Marie. Love and miss you. From all of us. -24/9



Happy 65th Birthday
Dee Dee
December 28th



10. Garage Sales

JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS A fine selection of glass, china, silver, Roseville pottery, cameos and other fine jewelry. Hall and Hull pottery, cookie jars, oak and walnut furniture, coins and post cards, at the Grayling Antique Mall. Downtown Grayling (across the street from The Shoppenagon Inn). Open Mon. - Sat. 10-5. Some Sun. 11-3. Ph. no. 517-348-2113. -20-27-4-11-18-25/10

11. Automotive

1997 CHEVY SILVERADO Full sized truck, 4x4, loaded, 22,000 miles, under warranty. Includes pos traction, remote keyless entry. Comes with new \$900 fiberglass topper. Available after new year, \$21,450. 517-348-8739. -24/11

AVALANCHE OFFICE HOURS: Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm. 102 Michigan Avenue, Grayling - (517) 348-6811

USED CAR 1992 Chevy Corsica. Clean, excellent condition, \$3,000. Can be seen at, 50 N. I-75 Business Loop. 348-8123. -18-24/11

1992 TOYOTA PICK-UP Five speed, AC, AM/FM, high miles. \$4,000 or best offer. 517-350-7001. -24/11

SCHEER MOTORS BODY SHOP



**We repair all
makes & models**

- Modern Downdraft Prep & Paint Booths
- Complete Body Shop Facilities
- Free Computerized Estimates
- Certified Technicians
- Insurance Work
- Frame Work

From minor to major
body repairs, just
call Scheer Motors

Mopar. Customer One's
CHRYSLER CORPORATION PARTS

US-27 NORTH • GRAYLING • 517-348-5451 • JEFF SHARP • BODY SHOP MANAGER
We accept VISA • MasterCard • Discover • American Express. Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8 am - 5:30 pm

Bright Wishes From All Of Us

The holidays
bring many reasons to
smile, both large and small,
but our great patients
are the best reason of all!

Have a sparkling season!



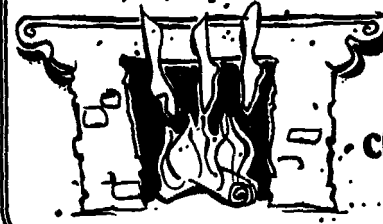
Grayling Family Dentistry



WITH WARM REGARDS AT Christmas

No matter how cold the weather gets outside
We are filled with warmth and pride
And folks like you are the reason
We're enjoying a glowing season!

Happy Holiday!



From everyone at
Fick & Sons
Super 8 Motel &
Charlie's Country Corner



'God so loved the
world, that he gave
his only begotten
Son, that whosoever
believeth in him
should not perish,
but have everlasting
life.'

(John 3:16)

We appreciate the
opportunity to
know and serve so
many beautiful
friends. We wish
all of you the very
best.

MERCY MEDICAL CENTER

1-800-424-1457



PEACE ON EARTH

Good friends and neighbors like all of you
make the holidays truly wonderful. Thanks!

Diane's Car Wash

Peace On Earth

Here's wishing you all the very best holiday
season ever.



AJD

Forest Products

P. O. Box 629

Four Mile Road

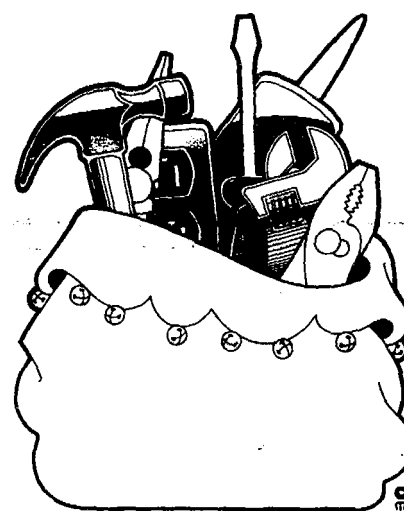
Grayling, Mich. 49738

(517) 348-5412

We Buy Standing Timber-
Registered Foresters

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Your kind support is a most wonderful gift.
We thank you.



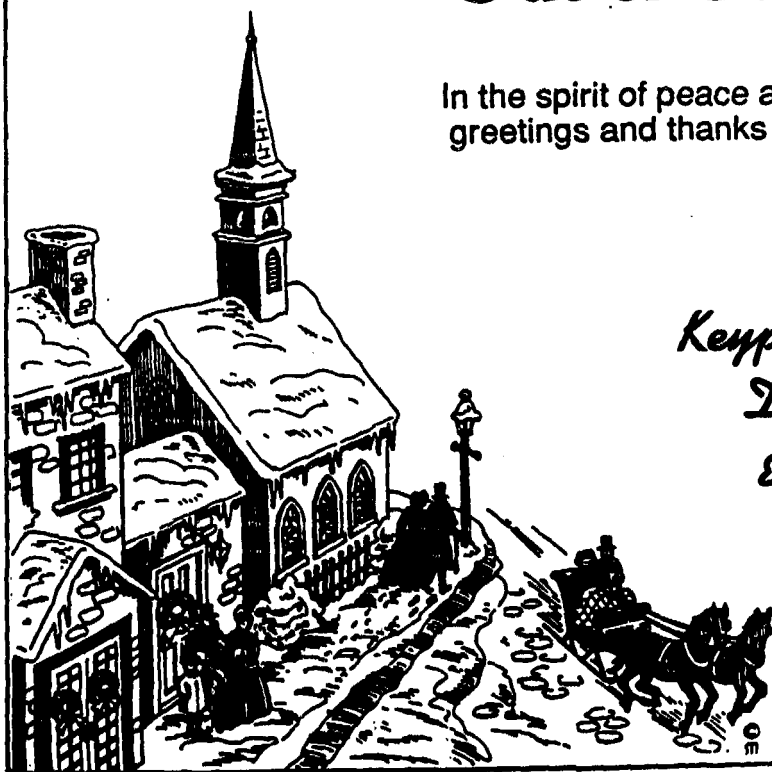
McLeans

ACE
Hardware

Holiday Hours:
Open Christmas Eve 8-4
Closed Christmas

Christmas Never Goes Out of Style

In the spirit of peace and joy, we offer
greetings and thanks to each of you.



Keyport Clinic
Dr. Rosi
& Staff



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Goose or turkey, ham or roast,
A table set by gracious host,
And all the family gathered near
To celebrate and spread good cheer!

We bow our heads with yours in thanks for
the many blessings He has given us, not the
least of which is an abundance of loving
friends and neighbors like you.

Grayling Insurance Agency

FEATURES

HOROSCOPES

For The Week Of December 21-27

ARIES

March 21-April 20

Things may turn out different than you had planned. Be willing to roll with the punches and see things through to the end and you'll come out ahead. You may need to take some risks in order to gain ground. A friend or family member gives you an idea that pays off.

TAURUS

April 21-May 21

Those in authority are keeping their eyes on you and expecting great things. They might be so busy watching you that they can't see major problems. That's when you come to the rescue and really score points. Consider your future and where you really want to be.

GEMINI

May 22-June 21

Financial pressures and questions take center stage. Any belt-tightening should be temporary—you'll get back on your feet with help from an unexpected source. From now on, pay attention to budgets and finances. You're attracting the attention of influential people. Stay focused on your goals.

CANCER

June 22-July 22

Make sure you're getting your money's worth. Examine invoices and bills and make sure all the work you paid for was actually done. Pay attention to the details. You're on the upswing at work and at home. Co-worker or partner seeks your advice. Be willing to listen but don't get drawn into a conflict.

LEO

July 23-August 23

Things affecting you are happening behind the scenes. Be aware that something is happening but don't dwell on it. Keep up with current obligations. Letting something slide now could have a snowball effect later. You are determined to get what you want—just make sure you want what's best.

VIRGO

August 24-September 22

You are good at following directions and attending to details, but now is the time to expand your thinking and be more creative. Don't be too proud to ask for help. A potential mentor is closer than you think. Treat yourself to a small luxury but don't go overboard.

LIBRA

September 23-October 23

Pressure is increasing and you may start to feel stressed. Take it in stride. You'll make the right moves at the right time. People will be impressed; you'll attract more attention. Limit outside distractions and keep a clear head so you'll be able to see the opportunities.

SCORPIO

October 24-November 22

Domestic issues are taking up most of your time now. You can keep everything rolling smoothly at home and work with concentration and effort. You'll be busy for awhile but others will be there to help when you need to catch your breath. Allow a significant other to help.

SAGITTARIUS

November 23-December 21

You have the aptitude for success; you just need to work on your attitude. Now is the time to start showing some results. Be aggressive and take advantage of the opportunities. You can be too cautious and wind up paying a heavy cost. Contact a long-distance friend.

CAPRICORN

December 22-January 20

Time to make the most of what you've got. You may need to spend some of your stockpile in order to take advantage of a wonderful opportunity. Don't worry, you'll be able to recoup your investment and then some. After the deal is made, try a quiet evening out with friends or a significant other.

AQUARIUS

January 21-February 18

Friends and family play a crucial role now. You'll know what to do and when to do it to get the best results. Others see you as the peacemaker and expect you to mediate disputes. It can be a burden but you'll hold up. Remember to take some time for yourself during the holiday season.

PISCES

February 19-March 20

Financial questions and concerns seem overwhelming but hang in there. Help is on the way from an unexpected source. After you get everything accounted for, take some time and review what caused the problems and how to avoid them in the future. Keep your emotional balance for best results.

For Entertainment Purposes Only

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Rice Salad with Tuscan Flavors

(Serves 6 to 8)

Salt to taste

1 1/4 C. long-grain rice

5 T. olive oil

3 T. fresh lemon juice

1 garlic clove, pressed

1/8 t. dried thyme

Freshly-ground pepper

1 C. frozen peas, thawed

2 ripe tomatoes, diced

1 red pepper, roasted, peeled

& chopped

3 marinated sun-dried tomatoes, chopped

1/2 C. chopped celery

1/2 C. chopped prosciutto

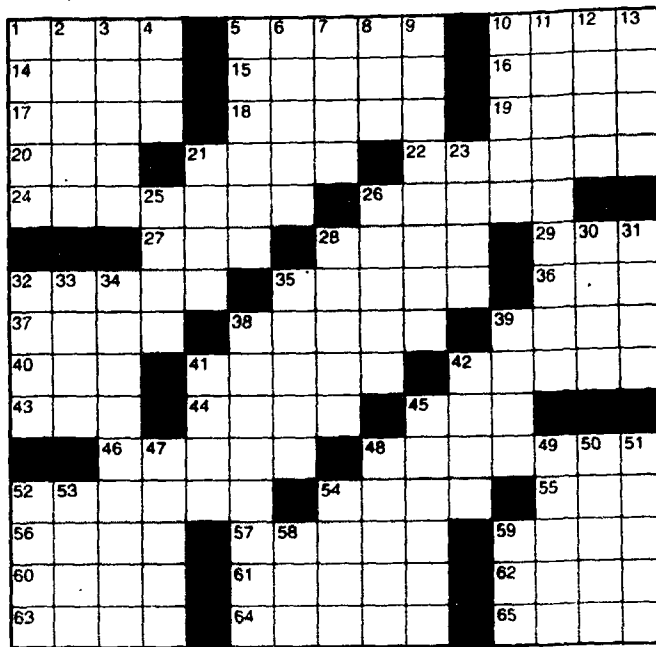
1/4 C. pine nuts

In small pan, bring 2 1/4 cups water to boiling. Add salt, stir in rice. Return to boiling, stirring with fork. Lower heat and cover. Cook until rice is al dente and water is absorbed, about 15 minutes. Transfer to large salad bowl. Drizzle 1 T olive oil over top. Fluff with fork. In small bowl, beat together

remaining 1/4 C. olive oil, lemon juice, garlic, thyme and salt and pepper. Pour dressing over rice. Toss in peas, plum tomatoes, roasted pepper, sun-dried tomatoes, celery, prosciutto and pine nuts. Taste and adjust seasonings. Refrigerate for at least 30 minutes before serving.



CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Do a dock job
5. Mood enhancer
10. Fast planes
14. Mrs. James Joyce
15. Dodsworth actress Mary
16. Resound
17. Sure!
18. Bootblack's specialty
19. Green isle
20. Wager
21. Suffix with young or old
22. Olivier's forte
24. Hightop
26. Condescend
27. Leter man
28. The Ghost And Mrs. _____
29. Kids' game
32. Horny concoction
35. Actress Cicely
36. Inits. for Bob Hope
37. Superman's mom, in the movies
38. Showed again
39. QB VII author
40. From _____ Z (2 wds.)
41. Absorb a lesson
42. Impudent
43. From _____ to Beersheba
44. Per
45. Famed diarist
46. Shattered

DOWN

1. Nose-in-the-air set
2. Substitute coin
3. Declaim
4. Appian _____
5. Expert
6. Poe family name
7. Mix the batter
8. Delphi attendant
9. Genesis subject
10. Take care of (2 wds.)
11. Sacred writing
12. Slender
13. _____ and dance
21. Rossignol products
23. Hokey stuff
25. Nora's pet
28. Actress Sami Jansen
29. Magan donation

30. In existing condition (2 wds.)
31. Golly!
32. "All Over" (Dave Clark Five)
33. New Zealand timber tree
34. Cromwell's cavalry
35. Educate
38. Appoint again
39. Coffee dispensers
41. Director David
42. _____ or cut bait
45. Complained persistently
47. Where Heathcliff roamed
48. Thrust forward
49. Met presentation
50. Henry V supporters
51. Like SF's Lombard Street
52. Works by Catullus
53. Cured salmon
54. "Java" trumpeter
58. Dovecote sound
59. Wooden pin

SPONSORED BY
The Last Office Of
John B. Huss

(517) 348-5431

ANSWERS IN CLASSIFIEDS

A LOOK AT OUR PAST

FROM THE PAGES OF THE AVALANCHE

23 YEARS AGO

December 26, 1974

Bear Mountain tow fees: \$2 for resident students and \$3 for resident adults. Non-residents student \$4 and non-resident adults \$6.

City honors five employees: Howard Moggo for 25 years of service with the City Department of Public Works, Thomas Dunham with 13 years service in the Department of Public Works, F. Ann Buron with 10 years service in the City Clerks Office, Seeley Wakeley with 10 years service in the City Garage, and Walt San Cartier with 10 years service in the Department of Public Works.

Janet M. Dice, O.T.R., a registered Occupational Therapist is with COOR for her second year.

Noted Hollywood actor, Curt Madson, to appear at Joseph Stripe Auditorium on Jan. 7th.

Santa draws bike winners at Grayling State Bank: Jo Ann Fairbrother of Frederic was the girls bicycle winners and the boys bike winner was John Sylvester of Grayling.

Mrs. Ernest (Elsie) Larson, R.N., was honored with a retirement luncheon at the Shoppenagon Motor Hotel, given by her friends and co-workers at the Grayling Mercy Hospital. Mrs. Larson, for over 43 years, has worked part-time as an R.N. at Grayling Mercy Hospital.

Colonel Michael J. Steger—whose foster parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bear, reside in Grayling, served as commander of an organization which recently received the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award.

Mr. and Mrs. Pat Nunn and family are spending several days this week with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Nunn in Rochester.

Mr. and Mrs. Phil Goss are spending Christmas Day with their daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Branch.

46 YEARS AGO

December 27, 1951

The Shoppenagons Inn dining room will open Saturday after being closed most of the month of December for extensive refurbishing and redecorating.

Fire, of undetermined origin, destroyed the Frederic Town Hall last Wednesday night. A Crawford County landmark, the wooden structure was burned to the ground by the flames.

Among those to receive football letters at Central Michigan College's annual football banquet, sponsored by the Men's Union Board on Jan. 17 will be James Kolka, Grayling freshman, a member of the college's B squad.

Pvt. Robert B. Golnick, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Golnick of Grayling, is completing his AF basic airman indoctrination course at Lackland Air Force Base.

Tom Hilton and Dick Souders U.S.N. arrives from their base at Jacksonville, Fla. Sunday to spend Christmas with their respective parents, the George Hilton's and Harry Souder's.

Jim Feldhauser is home from the Air Force, Denver Col., to spend the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. Paul Feldhauser. Other members of the family here for Christmas are Mr. and Mrs. Jess Cruz of Alma and Mr. and Mrs. Al Roth and son, Ricky, of Bay City. Over thirty members of the family gathered at the Rudolph Feldhauser's Sunday for a family get together.

Bruce Nielsen is home to spend the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carl H. Nielsen, Sr., from Camp Carson, Col.

Sgt. Robert LaChappelle has received his release from the Army and arrived home last Thursday.

Jim Kitchen is home from the Air Force at Boise, Idaho, visiting his parents, the K. K. Kitchens.

69 YEARS AGO

December 27, 1928

Earl Gierke is home for the holidays from the Davenport-McLaughlin Institute, Grand Rapids, visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Adam Gierke.

Esbern Hanson, Jr. is home from St. John's Military Academy, Delafield, Wis., spending the holidays with his parents.

Miss Virginia Hanson, who attends school in Chicago, is spending the holiday vacation with her father, T.W. Hanson.

The toboggan slide has a dandy "take-off" all ready for use. This has been constructed for permanent service and will not have to be taken down after the season closes. The work was done by Carl Tahvonen and his three assistants, whose work was donated for the good of the cause.

Misses Margrethe and Ella Hanson are home from Bennett School, Millbrook, N.Y., spending the holidays with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Hanson.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Dixon on December 14, a daughter, Sarah Leona.

The A.J. Trudeau family and Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Brown are enjoying new Majestic radios.

Mr. and Mrs. Holger Hanson enjoyed having as their guests over Christmas Mr. and Mrs. Emil Hanson and daughter, Betty and son, Neil, of Detroit.

A. J. Joseph and family enjoyed a visit from his brother Sam Joseph of Detroit over Christmas.

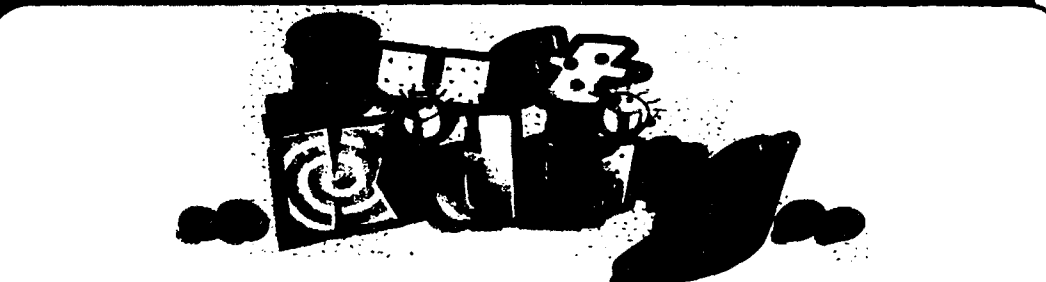
92 YEARS AGO

December 28, 1905

Miss Mable Ivory is visiting at the home of Prof. E. G. Clark.

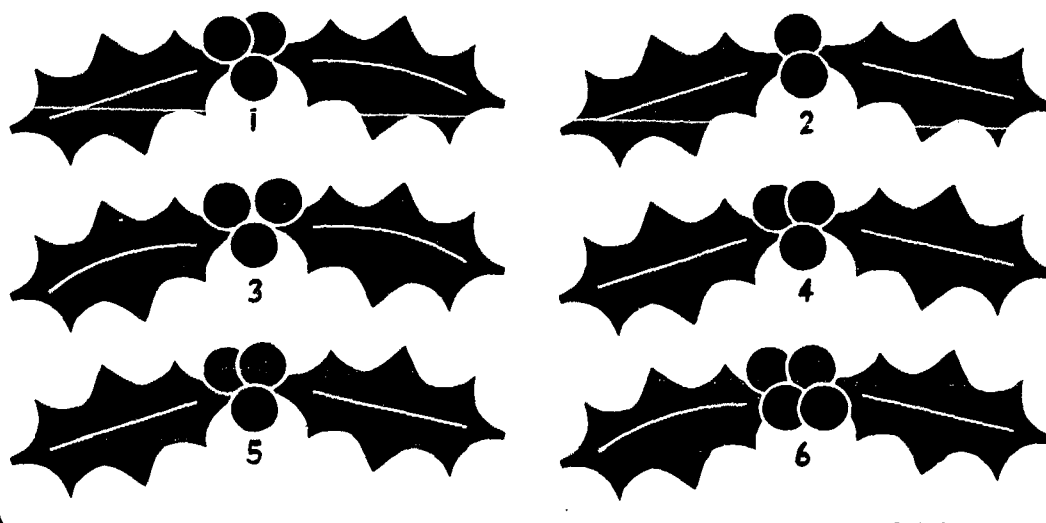
Born to Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Campbell, Christmas morning a daughter.

Miss Laura Simpson is home for a two week vacation from her school in Traverse City.



FIND THE TWINS

WHICH TWO ARE EXACTLY ALIKE?



ANSWER FOUR AND FIVE

WEATHER

Courtesy of the City of Grayling

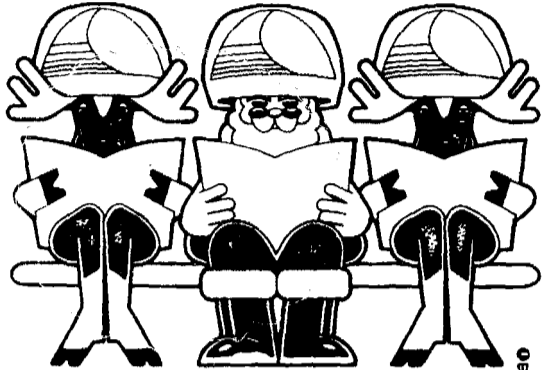
Date	High	Low	Precip
12/17	44	18	
12/18	40	17	
12/19	41	27	
12/20	39	26	
12/21	38	25	
12/22	34	21	

Merry Christmas

Merry Christmas!

To all of our friends and patrons we say thanks! Celebrate in style!

A Cut Above



We wish your families the best of cheer and the best of the best throughout the New Year.



Pictured Back L-R: Rene', Sara, Ticia, Carmen. Front L-R: Wendy, Dawn & Gail

Thank you for your patronage. We enjoy your company!!

Heads Up North

Warmest Greetings! May holiday joy warm your heart and home. Thank you for your patronage.

Thermegas Company

Strike Up A Terrific Holiday!

We're happy to take this time to express our very best wishes for a merry Christmas, along with our sincere thanks.

American Legion Lounge & Lanes
106 S. James
348-7232

JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED

Here's our prescription for the holidays... Take an extra dose of health and good fortune and enjoy the season!

GRATLING PHARMACY

Happy Holidays

As we close out the season of giving, spending time together with family and friends, we are thankful and optimistic. Thankful for the pleasure of serving each day, a part of our tradition, and optimistic for the growth and exciting challenges that lie ahead in the coming year.

We are proud of our achievements during 1997. This year we added ATM service in Oscoda, West Branch, Houghton Lake, Lawas and Mio, and installed a new service at the Houghton Lake branch. As we endeavor to offer new products and services to members in 1998, we also offer our sincere thanks for your membership!

We wish you and your loved ones for a safe and healthy holiday season from the entire Northland staff!

Howard W. Spencer
Howard W. Spencer
Chairman of the Board

Northland

Area Federal Credit Union

REAL ESTATE



Located on three acres of hardwoods is this clean two-bedroom, two-bathroom home. 23x14 living room has a gas log woodstove. Extras include two nice-size decks, 24x32 garage and the list goes on. \$58,500. #4189. Ask for Debbie Bondar!



Excellent Location Large 1,668 sq. ft. ranch home offers full finished basement with two to three additional bedrooms downstairs. New siding, fenced yard, attached garage and more. \$107,900. #4169. Ask for Debbie Bondar!



150' on the West Branch of Big Creek Three bedrooms plus a loft gives plenty of room for company in this quality two-bath home. Other points of interest are snack bar, whirlpool sauna, skylights, privacy and more. \$154,900. #4100. Ask for Debbie Bondar!



Here It Is! A Log Cabin in the Woods for the recreational and outdoor lover. Two-bedroom cabin sets on 13 acres and features woodstove, large deck, 15x15 shed, includes stove and refrigerator. Some finish work needed. \$59,900. #4133. Ask for Debbie Bondar!



330 Ft. on AuSable River & Canal Has Water View From Almost Every Room. Quality-built ranch home also has exquisite master bath with step-up Jacuzzi bath, shower and ceramic tile. Large deck on river side, located off living room. \$129,000. #4103. Ask for Debbie Bondar!



Renovated Three-Bedroom, Two-Bathroom Home has private dressing room, library, hardwood floors, full basement, 24x36 barn and an attached garage! Harrison area. \$84,500. #4165. Ask for Jim Wiltse!



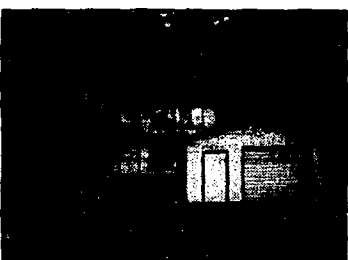
Close to Bear Lake Access, Cute and Clean This home has been very-well maintained and has three bedrooms, one bathroom, 14x22 garage, fenced in area, on a 101'x469' hardwooded parcel of land. Accessed off a county-maintained, paved road. \$36,000. #4121. Ask for Jim Wiltse!



Close to Lake Margrethe! Large home in nice neighborhood, with mature trees, full basement and beautiful landscaping, on 1.3 acres. \$70,000. #4145. Ask for John Kuszak!



Motivated Seller! Four-bedroom, two-bath home with all the extras. Pole barn, two storage sheds, enclosed porch and close to Manistee River and snowmobile trails. \$68,900. #4144. Ask for Bob Pollack!



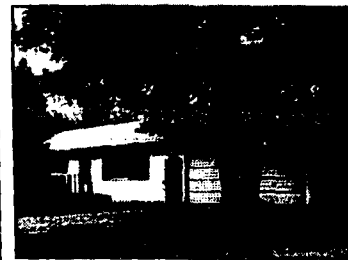
1,920 Square Foot Home located close to Lake Margrethe features five bedrooms, two bathrooms, living room and family room. \$83,500. #4191. Ask for John Kuszak!



Beautiful Mobile Home is Secluded on 2 1/2 Acres Featuring two bedrooms, an enormous three-car garage, wonderful landscaped yard, decks, and comes with washer, dryer, refrigerator and stove. \$43,000. #4094. Ask for John Kuszak!



Snowmobilers' Delight Comes Furnished Nice, neat cabin backs up to state land. Comes with all furnishings, and is ready to move in and use. New 3/4 bathroom. Close to restaurants, store, gas station and trails! \$17,900. #4040. Ask for Connie Winans!



Excellent Location! This three-bedroom home features a large kitchen and dining area, full basement which is partially finished, two-car attached garage and a nice yard. \$59,900. #4201. Ask for Connie Winans!



Local Restaurant Has Up-North Atmosphere Busy year-round restaurant located on I-75 Business Loop with 230 feet of frontage. Has room to expand, and also on location is a three-bedroom home. \$230,000. #4088. Ask for Connie Winans!



Mobile Home on 1 1/2 Acres, Only Minutes from Higgins Lake Centrally located between Grayling and Roscommon makes this a great getaway for year-around fun! Featuring two bedrooms, one bathroom, stove and refrigerator, and comes furnished. \$29,900. #4130. Ask for Connie Winans!



Randy Thompson



James Wiltse



Sherry Hanson



John Kuszak



Sandy Thompson



Phyllis Failing



Connie Winans



Dwight Hassan



Robert Pollack



Debbie Bondar

Quality Service
from
Quality People

Century 21

River Country Real Estate
5638 W. • D. 72 • Grayling, MI 49738

Office
348-5474



Fax
348-4420

Wood heat fires still pose serious threat to Michigan residents

Although fires resulting from wood heating are less frequent these days, they still represent a serious threat to life and property in Michigan.

In 1996, eleven civilians and 12 firefighters were injured due to these blazes, according to a spokesperson for the insurance industry. Total costs associated with these fires exceeded \$5 million last year.

Wood heating fires increased steadily from the late 1970s to 1983, when the Michigan State Police Fire Marshal Division reported 2,708 wood stove and fireplace incidents and over 3,400 fires originating in chimneys. Since that time, these fires have decreased significantly. In 1996, there were 361 fires resulting from wood stove and fireplace heating and 774 originating in chimneys.

"The lower incidence of these

blazes is due in part decreased reliance upon wood for home heating during recent years," Lori White, Communications Director of the Michigan Association of Insurance Companies (MAIC), said. Also, consumers have become more knowledgeable about proper equipment installation and operation, according to White.

The nature of wood heating fires has changed drastically. In the late 1970s, when homeowners were just rediscovering wood as an energy source, improper system installation was a leading cause of these fires. Currently, inadequate maintenance leads to most wood heating accidents.

Creosote build-up is responsible for many chimney fires. Dark in color and with an unpleasant odor, creosote is a by-product of wood

burning that coats the interior of pipes and chimneys. If heavy deposits become very hot, they burst into flames. Use of unseasoned wood produces more creosote.

Each year before a wood stove is put into use, the chimney flue should be thoroughly cleaned.

Six guidelines for wood burning safety are recommended: 1) buy only equipment approved by a recognized testing laboratory; 2) make certain the system is installed according to authorized standards; 3) learn and follow general rules for operation/maintenance; 4) regularly inspect the chimney and stovepipes for deficiencies and creosote build-up; 5) check stoves for cracks or faulty legs and hinges; and 6) keep a fire extinguisher available that is suitable for wood or coal blazes.

Rotary Calendar Winners

For the month of November, 1997.

Toni Stephan, \$50; Dave Herberholz, \$50; John Patchin, \$50; and, Leonard Winarski, \$50.



Sleigh Rides at Hanson Hills

Available Saturdays
on the hour
4 to 7 pm
Max. 20 people
per ride
\$5 per person



For sleigh ride reservations please call
Grayling Recreation Authority at 348-9266

TOP 10 REASONS TO GIVE A CRAWFORD COUNTY AVALANCHE SUBSCRIPTION THIS SEASON

- #1. One size fits all - news, features and entertainment for every interest and taste.
- #2. It will never go out of style - the need to know is always in fashion
- #3. They won't be embarrassed because your gift is not displayed when you drop in unannounced - they'll use it all year, day in and day out.
- #4. They won't have to worry about Santa getting stuck in their chimney - deliveries are made by the U.S. Post Office.
- #5. Lets you take advantage of the Scrooge factor - you won't have to share your newspaper anymore.
- #6. It may eventually wind up at the bottom of the bird cage, but not at the returns department.
- #7. How else are they going to find out what happens in and around Crawford County.
- #8. It's cheaper than a sports car.
- #9. It doesn't have to be assembled.
- #10. It's easy! Just fill out the coupon located below.

Save Over 30% OFF The Newsstand Price*

*based on local newsstand price

Subscription ordered by:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Gift to: Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Start Delivery Date _____

RATES

Local \$15.00
Part Time
Local Resident \$20.00
Out of County \$24.00
Foreign Countries \$45.00
College Students \$10.00
Senior Citizens receive
\$1.00 discount

CRAWFORD COUNTY
AVALANCHE

102 Michigan Ave., Grayling, MI 49738